

Hafa Adai!

Over 1,000 PSS students face registration difficulties. **PAGE 2**
US House OKs defense bill with Kilili's small business act. **PAGE 8**

75¢

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'CUC customers subsidizing hospital'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Right now, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. owes the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. nearly \$36 million that keeps growing by about \$400,000 per month, according to CUC. That owed amount,

CUC said, is impacting the utility company's ability to provide power, water, and wastewater services to the community. It has now come to a point that CHCC must pay CUC at least \$5 million by Aug. 6, which is in two weeks.

These points were outlined in a letter dated July 6 that CUC sent CHCC, saying that

CHCC board of trustees chair Lauri Ogumoro said they are working to get the money, that they are due to meet with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres today at the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill "...and hopefully, we will have more information from there."

CUC pointed out that one

way for the hospital to keep its power costs down is by

See CUC on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, July 23, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	330	2	332
Recovered	242	2	244
Active	81	2	83
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			19,601

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	38	0	38
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			11,338**

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Business leaders back NI promotion

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

While some have questioned the recent promotional activity that focused on the Northern Islands, tourism and business leaders have expressed support for the decision to have the Marianas Visitors Authority join forces with Rob-

ert Arrington, who hosts the YouTube channel *Deer Meat for Dinner*, to showcase the islands as the CNMI's last frontier.

For one, the MVA has always been wanting to get quality footage of the islands to showcase the beauty of not just the three inhabited islands

See BUSINESS on Page 4

IPI barred from selling or transferring assets

» IPI has paid all its payroll

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona

V. Manglona granted yesterday a contractor's request for an order to prohibit Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC from selling or transferring assets.

At the motions hearing, See IPI on Page 4



BEFORE



AFTER

File photo taken in July 2017 shows the former CMS premises in Gualo Rai being cleared for the U.S. Courthouse building project in Garapan. Other photo shows the completed state-of-the-art U.S. Courthouse building.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

District Court to move to Gualo Rai Monday

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the

NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered yesterday that the court will be closed for business today, Friday,

for court staff to relocate to the new U.S. Courthouse in Gualo Rai.

Manglona said the District

Court will resume operations on Monday, July 27, at the new courthouse, with the address 1671 Gualo Rai Road.

The judge said the drop box at the Office of the Clerk of

Court at the Horiguchi Building will not be available.

"All filings must be submitted electronically in CM/ECF by registered users on this day. During the closure, you may

call 670-237-1200 for assistance with any court emergency," Manglona said.

Construction of the state-of-the-art U.S. Courthouse building. See DISTRICT on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

After months of repair work and extensive renovations, KFC and Taco Bell have reopened.

PAGE 11



ASIA

China launched its most ambitious mission yet in a bid to land a spacecraft on Mars.

PAGE 18



LIFE & STYLE

Amber Heard alleged that ex-husband Johnny Depp threw "30 or so bottles" at her.

PAGE 22



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Local

Over 1,000 PSS students face registration difficulties due to immunization records

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Due to limited accommodation at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Public Health Immunization Program office, over 1,000 students are unable to update their immunization records to acquire a health certificate—a major requirement to register for the upcoming school year.

According to Lynette Villagomez, Public School System senior director, over 1,000 students have not updated their immunization records.

She noted that CNMI law

requires a student to present a health certificate when enrolling in school. However, in order to acquire a health certificate, students must update their immunization records. The problem, Villagomez said, is that the Public Health immunization program office can only accommodate 35 appointments in the morning and 35 in the afternoon—thus allowing the office to comply with COVID-19 social distancing rules. That rule has resulted in a backlog among students needing to have their shots updated.

In a report to the Board of Education last week, Villagomez

said she met with Division of Public Health officials to inform them about the number of students who need to update their immunization records. "They have reached out to PSS to see how we can work together to make this a lot easier for parents to access updated immunization and updated health certificates that students need to submit for school registration," Villagomez said.

Villagomez said that PSS has also asked CHCC to waive the \$5 certificate fee for students. "We are hoping we get positive information on that so we can help our parents because we do have parents with more than one child," she added.

Recently, PSS launched an online registration process for students in school year 2020-2021.

"If a parent has it [immunization record], then they should be able to upload their child's health certificate. If they don't have it, then they have 30 days from the day that they submitted their online enrollment form to submit it," Villagomez said.

For more information, visit the PSS Facebook page.

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Senate preps for budget hearings



IVA MAURIN

Senate vice president Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), left, asks Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee members yesterday how they want to approach the budget process for fiscal year 2021.

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The Senate has begun preparations to hold budget hearings.

In a meeting yesterday, Senate vice president Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) asked Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee member how they want to approach the budget process for fiscal year 2021.

Hofschneider, who also chairs the committee, acknowledged the challenges this year, with the economy and the “severe reduction” in projection, but that those just give them more opportunity to look at other elements within the revenue stream.

“The governor had requested for us to consider suspending some of the earmarks, which is substantial, to the tune of approximately \$12 million, and that’s the revised figure that was submitted [on] July 1—\$12 million more than what was submitted than earlier in April,” he said. “Those are the things that are very crucial to us during this bud-

get deliberation. Of course, there are significant numbers of our people that were furloughed and terminated. So those are the things that we need to carefully look through and try to work, to come up with a reliable product.

“We’re hoping to see what the House passed also, so that we can begin the process of having a budget product before the end of the fiscal year,” he added.

Hofschneider also said that the Senate and the House don’t usually have the same product at the end of their respective budget reviews.

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee will be reserving the month of August for meetings with agencies, to facilitate and help the lawmakers with their analysis on the appropriations for the agencies for the next fiscal year.

At the beginning of the meeting, Senate fiscal analyst Dave Demapan told the senators that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres did not touch the revenue base that was estimated

in the original budget of approximately \$144 million. Instead, he made changes on the earmarked accounts, most of which are suspended from his original submission, amounting to about \$11.28 million.

In addition, Demapan said that the amount that is going to be appropriated in the general fund increased by about \$12 million, from \$70.6 million to \$82.6 million.

The lawmakers raised several initial concerns on the proposed budget, particularly on the revolving fund, the hotel occupancy tax, comingling of funds, and the suspension of earmarked funds, including payments made by the CNMI’s casino licensee, Imperial Pacific International.



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BUSINESS

From Page 1

of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, but of all the 14 islands that make up the CNMI. But because of the cost, the project was considered impossible, according to Marian Aldan-Pierce, Duty Free Shop Saipan's president and chairwoman of MVA board of directors.

"Then came Mr. Arrington's proposal. Fifty-nine thousand dollars for what he has been producing is a drop in the bucket. The quality of the footage is great and [it] showcases not just the unique qualities of the islands he has visited, but how fun off-the-grid living is and can be," said Aldan-Pierce.

Although she does not anticipate an immediate increase in tourism to the Northern Islands, these footages will act as a teaser. "Will the CNMI get an immediate uptick in tourism to the Northern Islands? Of course not. We have none of the necessary logistics to welcome visitors to any one island beyond Saipan at this moment. I see these footages as teasers for what can be available to adventure seekers with money in the future. I'm talking long term. But what these footages are doing is creating awareness of our destinations—the three that we market all the time, and the potential of the 11 that are virtually virgin territory, which are getting to be a rarity in this part of the world. He is showing the world where we are located and the gems we have," said Aldan-Pierce.

Aldan-Pierce says it's unfortunate that the promotion has received some negative attention instead of people looking at the positive contribution that the promotion could have. "Mr.

Arrington is an adventurer and a lover of nature and the simple life we have as islanders. And all these good things are drowning in negativity," said Aldan-Pierce.

Jerry Tan, who is president of Tan-Holdings, pointed out that opportunities for this level of exposure "are very rare and, at such a low cost, are nearly nonexistent. Platforms like YouTube and productions like Mr. Rob Arrington's are at the cutting edge of marketing. The CNMI needs exposure; we need to build our brand. This takes a consistent and long-term marketing effort of showcasing to the world who we are and what we have to offer. I am very thankful that Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres took advantage of this opportunity," he said.

Priscilla Iakopo, MVA managing director, said that the low marketing price, which is at \$59,000, is rare. "Many people do not understand just how much it costs to market the CNMI. We have to spend money in order to attract visitors. Marketing in general is normally incredibly expensive. It would have been irresponsible for us not to take advantage of the opportunity to put the CNMI out there to an audience of millions, for such a nominal cost," said Iakopo.

Mike Sablan, Triple J Enterprises vice president and an MVA board member, said it is no secret that the tourism industry has changed globally, and that tourist interests are changing. "If we want to compete and grow our tourism sector, there's no question we must adapt—not only to keep up, but to get ahead. This means revamping our marketing strategy with the goal to expand our markets beyond our traditional sources and beyond our usual offerings. The opportunity to promote our Northern Islands was

brought to us, and I'm glad that MVA seized it," he said.

Sablan says that the extraordinary footage these last couple of weeks showcasing the beauty of the Northern Islands has created awareness of some new experiences to offer to tourists. "While it may be years before we're able to develop the needed infrastructure, logistics, and safeguards to expand the CNMI's tourism destination to include our Northern Island gems, we need to start somewhere" and the recent YouTube videos are a great start, he said.

Torres also pointed out that the CNMI government spent a small amount to assist in making the production happen. "While we made a small investment solely to assist with the transportation costs, Mr. Arrington spent a significant amount of his own resources to cover much of the cost of his nearly two weeks of filming," he said.

Torres added that it saddens him to see that critics have targeted the marketing effort and have "cast a dark cloud over what is a rare opportunity to bring the beauty of our islands to an audience of millions."

"For the very small investment made by the CNMI, Rob Arrington will be here for nearly two months of filming and producing shows featuring the Northern Islands, Saipan, and Tinian. Viewership of the *Deer Meat for Dinner* shows featuring the CNMI are already approaching 17 million," said Torres.

The goal, Torres said, is to diversify visitor numbers for the long term. "I would challenge those who are making a case against this, when our bread and butter is tourism, to provide me with a similar opportunity that brings our islands to an audience of millions

for as little cost," said Torres.

As of July 23, 2020, *Deer Meat For Dinner* had 2.37 million subscribers on YouTube. His episodes featuring the Northern Mariana Islands have garnered nearly 17 million views.

DISTRICT

From Page 1

ing has been completed, more than two years since the project broke ground on Dec. 7, 2017.

The project is composed of a 53,000 square-foot three-story courthouse with a basement and two adjoining commercial buildings. The courthouse includes one courtroom, two judges' chambers, a jury assembly room and office space for building tenants.

The original target completion date was third quarter of 2019. But many factors such as Super Typhoon Yutu delayed the construction.

The U.S. General Services Administration awarded a 20-year lease to Marianas Management Corp. for the construction of the building. GSA said the lease will cost approximately

Arrington will remain in the CNMI for several weeks, filming episodes of *Deer Meat for Dinner* on Tinian and Saipan to showcase the natural environment and the people of the Marianas.

\$2.4 million annually.

Developer MMC is a subsidiary of Joeten Enterprises Inc.

When the District Court for the NMI opened its doors in 1978, it was a pool-side suite at the Saipan InterContinental Hotel, now the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. The District Court later moved to the Nauru Building (now the Marianas Business Plaza) in Susupe.

The District Court eventually moved into the new courthouse at the current location at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan in 1991.

Seven years later, in the wake of the Oklahoma City federal courthouse bombing, a Federal Assessment Board determined that the current courthouse is the least safe courthouse in the nation. As a result, the GSA decided to build a new federal building on Saipan.

Future World Corp. (Guam) was the contractor of the project.

IPI

From Page 1

Manglona asked Colin M. Thompson, who is counsel for contractor Pacific Rim Land Development LLC, to draft the order for the court's approval.

When asked for comments, IPI general counsel Michael W. Dotts said that Pacific Rim sought to have all of the gaming equipment and furniture sold, but Manglona did not agree, that selling IPI's vehicles should be enough to satisfy the balance of the \$6.9 million judgment.

Dotts said that, until the judgment is paid or a bond is put in place, IPI cannot sell or mortgage any of its property, but hopefully that prohibition will not be in place long.

The lawyer pointed out that IPI's appeal is still pending.

He said IPI hopes to have a bond in place to cover the amount of the judgment in time to prevent the vehicles from being sold.

Dotts said there is, however, some good news.

"IPI paid its payroll and all the past payrolls that had not been paid as a result of the writ emptying the bank accounts have now been caught up," he said.

At the hearing yesterday, Manglona also granted Pacific Rim's request to gain access to IPI's casino cage subject to the Commonwealth Casino Commission's restrictions.

According to the minutes of the hearing, the judge denied without prejudice the request for an order regarding removal of the crane at the construction site of Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan.

Manglona granted Pacific Rim's request to order that IPI's vehicles be maintained and insured.

Manglona ordered IPI to identify person or persons with sufficient information to respond.

She informed IPI that sanctions will be imposed should the information not be tendered.

The judge granted Pacific Rim's request for attorney's fees and costs for filing the motion to compel.

Pacific Rim was given until Aug. 7, 2020, to file the request for fees and costs. IPI general counsel Michael Dotts was given no later than Aug. 14 to respond.

In a separate order yesterday, Manglona directed the clerk to release the funds received from Pacific American Title Inc. to Pacific Rim in the amount of \$100 from the court's Treasury Registry Fund.

The court earlier granted Pacific Rim's application for a writ of execution on Pacific American Title Inc.

The court issue the writ last June 15, as well as a notice to IPI regarding its rights.

To date, Manglona said, IPI has not moved for a hearing or filed any other requests regarding this writ.

Pacific American Title tendered \$100 to the court, and the U.S. Treasury completed the processing of those funds.

Last April 27, Manglona entered a judgment in favor of Pacific Rim in the amount of \$5.65 million against IPI for breach of promissory note.

Last May 26, Manglona amended the judgment to incorporate pre-judgment interest and attorneys' fees. The clerk then on May 28 entered an amended judgment in the amount of \$6.9 million plus post-judgment interest.

Dotts earlier stated that IPI has satisfied about \$3.1 million of the judgment following the court's first and second writs of execution, but the \$6.9 million has not been satisfied in full.

Pacific Rim is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators, claiming it has completed or completed the agreed-upon construction work on Sept. 30, 2018.

IPI brought counterclaims against Pacific Rim for promissory fraud, fraud in the inducement as to the promissory note, violation of Consumer Protection Act, and breach of contract.

CUC

From Page 1

running its own generator for at least six hours a day. "CHCC is capable of storing fuel for its generators for reserve and back-up use. In short, CHCC possesses the necessary infrastructure to self-generate power for the entire hospital grounds for six hours daily and has demonstrated its ability to do so on multiple occasions.

"Thus, if CUC implements daily, six-hour disconnections to CHCC, such disconnections should have little to no effect on hospital services dependent on a power supply. This action will help CHCC control its monthly utility costs owed to CUC as well as assist CUC in diverting critical resources to other infrastructure in dire need of maintenance and repair," said CUC.

CUC executive director Gary Camacho and CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña met last Oct. 2, 2019 to discuss the outstanding balance and brought up the concern again to CHCC in official writing last Dec. 20, 2019.

Additionally, CUC says that the outstanding balance of CHCC has affected their ability to provide power, water, and wastewater services to the rest of the community. "CHCC's outstanding balance has reached the point where both residential and commercial customers are essentially

subsidizing CHCC's monthly utility obligations. This is an unfortunate situation that CHCC could have avoided if it had made payments to CUC for services rendered. Consequently, the CUC board must now take policy action to alleviate CUC's financial strains caused by CHCC so that CUC can effectively provide utilities to all of its customers" said CUC.

If CHCC uses a generator as a source of power, it will need another back-up generator, which is a requirement of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or CMS. "Unfortunately, we don't have that," Muna said.

CHCC Hospital Emergency Preparedness director Warren Villagomez earlier said CHCC's 30-year-old generator will compromise a lot of the hospital's services and that going offline six hours a day will affect the machine and services that the hospital provides.

CHCC is building its own solar power project on the grounds of the hospital but Villagomez said that only the first phase of the project had been completed, that there was a delay in connecting the system because of the ongoing pandemic. Once connected, the solar power system will be able to provide 22% of the power needs of CHCC.

In order to be able to pay CUC, CHCC will have to cut half of the \$10 million allotted for medical supplies or take \$5 million from the salaries of nurses and other health

providers, said CHCC chief financial officer Derek Sasamoto.

During the CHCC budget hearing conducted by the House Ways and Means Committee last July 13, Sasamoto said mandated allotments for CHCC had not been remitted by the central government. Sasamoto also noted that uncompensated care reached \$18 million in the current fiscal year. He said this has become a massive liability for CHCC, which needs government support.

"We will lose our nurses and our providers and it will be another situation of not providing services [to the public]," Sasamoto said.

"We want to pay what is due, but we are handcuffed," Ogumoro said. "We are tied by our inability to collect the money from within the [CNMI] government. We cannot turn off the patients like we can turn off the power to your house. We don't do that."

Muna said CHCC has come up with a list of what the CNMI government owes the corporation, from the services it provides outside the hospital, including interisland medical referrals, the health services provided to the Department of Corrections, the Department of Public Safety, and other agencies.

Muna said once "we get an allotment from the government, we will split it up and [share it with] CUC. But we have not gotten that allotment."

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NMHC petition to compel court to order property sale is denied

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has denied the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s petition for a writ of mandamus to compel the Superior Court to order the foreclosure sale of a couple's property after they defaulted on a mortgage and didn't pay the court's judgment.

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and associate justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos ruled that NMHC's petition is denied as it does not seek relief that would be unavailable on a direct appeal.

The justices said under the factors whether to grant the petition, NMHC fails to make a showing that it is entitled to relief that would be unavailable on direct appeal.

Under the circumstances, the justices said Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan ordering a status conference to clarify the debt of Lucia and John Wayne Techur before proceeding with foreclosure was not unreasonable.

The justices said NMHC can seek an equivalent remedy on direct appeal and the Superior Court may well order a foreclosure order after the status conference clarifies the state of the debt.

The justices also did not find Bogdan in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct. They said Bogdan's order is very clear in the reasoning for issuing the status conference.

In the footnote of their opinion, the justices, however, stated that a comment on the procedural history of this matter and the "apparent discord" between Bogdan and NMHC counsel Michael A. White "is in order."

The justices said Bogdan scheduled a status conference for months after NMHC's motion was filed, unnecessarily protracting the resolution of this dispute. The justices pointed out that the information desired from NMHC could have been ob-



Castro

tained in short order.

The justices said Bogdan should be mindful of the need to resolve the parties' dispute expeditiously.

The justices said that Bogdan did not exhibit bias in declining to endorse without question NMHC's ex parte motion to enforce a 13-year judgment. "Alleging judicial misconduct without clear foundation or seeking the appropriate remedy risks kindling animosity to no good end," the justices said.

According to the high court's ruling, Lucia and John Wayne Techur defaulted on a promissory note secured by a mortgage. Thirteen years later, NMHC moved for a foreclosure sale of the property. Bogdan denied the motion and, instead, ordered a status conference for NMHC and the Techurs to present evidence on the current state of the debt.

In 2007, the Superior Court (not Bogdan) entered a default judgment for \$90,675. Thirteen years later, in 2020, NMHC moved ex parte for a foreclosure. The motion listed an outstanding principal of \$88,398 plus interest.

It stated that the motion was made ex parte because NMHC was entitled to the procedural order requested under the statute.

NMHC submitted a proposed order appointing White to sell the property. Bogdan denied the motion because NMHC "failed to provide the court with the

necessary information to properly consider its motion relating to a default judgment that has apparently sat inactive (and now totally unexplained) for a very long period of time."

Bogdan also found the motion lacked explanation for a different principal sum in the motion than in the 2007 default judgment and the legal description of the property to be sold.

Bogdan ordered NMHC to provide an accounting of the debt and set a status conference, emphasizing that equity required giving notice to the Techurs.

In its petition to the high court, NMHC, through White, argued that Bogdan abused his discretion in denying the motion. White further alleged that Bogdan violated his duty to be impartial under Canon 3 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, though NMHC does not seek the judge's disqualification.

White pointed out that "over the years, the judges of the Superior Court have, in hundreds of cases, issued orders substantially identical to the order requested here."

In denying NMHC's petition, the justices said a writ of mandamus is an extraordinary writ, reserved for the most dire of instances when no other relief is available. The justices said NMHC fails to demonstrate that an extraordinary writ is warranted or to substantiate its allegation of judicial mis-



Bogdan

conduct. They said NMHC can later pursue the relief it seeks through an ordinary appeal without prejudice.

First and foremost, it is not the case that NMHC had no other avenue to obtain the desired relief, the justices said, adding that Bogdan's order for a status conference was not an abuse of discretion in view of the uncertainty concerning the state of the debt and the long delay in seeking foreclosure.

The justices said when NMHC and the Techurs present accounting evidence and clarify the state of indebtedness at the status conference, the Superior Court can then issue an order authorizing a foreclosure sale. The justices said if the court denies a foreclosure sale at that stage, NMHC can then bring the issue before the high court as a direct appeal.

NMHC's argument is that it will be damaged or prejudiced in a way not correctable on appeal if the petition for writ is denied. "But there has already been a delay of 13 years since the default judgment, and interest is running on the judgment," the justices pointed out. A few additional weeks for a status conference to clarify the situation, while interest is accumulating, does not irretrievably damage NMHC, they said.

When the state of debt is clarified, issuing a foreclosure order may be called for, they added.

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Judge distributes estate's properties to heirs

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Receiving no objection, the Superior Court has granted a petition of an estate's administrator to distribute to the heirs several properties, including a land in San Vicente containing an area of 24,766 square meters, that is the subject of a lawsuit filed by CNMI Zoning Board vice chair Joe E. Ayuyu Jr.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho recognized the heirs of Luis Manibusan Cepeda to be his spouse, Guadalupe Matagolai Cepeda, and sons Edward Matagolai Cepeda, Benjamin Matagolai Cepeda, Patrick Matagolai Cepeda, Kelvin Matagolai Cepeda, and Luis Matagolai Cepeda Jr.

Camacho distributed the 24,766 square meters of land in San Vicente and four other properties equally to Guadalupe and sons Edward, Benjamin, Kelvin, Patrick, and Luis Jr.

Ayuyu, through counsel Michael W. Dotts, is suing for quiet title to clear ownership against Edward M. Cepeda, a police sergeant who has claimed an interest in the property.

The four other distributed properties consist of an undivided interest of 4,000 square meters of a lot containing an area of 52,938 square meters, a lot containing an area of 968 square meters, a 3,000 square meters of lot containing an area of 10,000 square meters, and 2/6th undivided interest in a tract containing an area of

Scheduled power interruption on July 28

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled power interruption on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

■ Outage Type: Sectionalized power outage for Feeder 1

■ Project location: Navy Hill

■ Power service area(s) affected: Navy Hill (partial of Magalahi Drive and Sunset View Terrace going up Navy Hill past CHCC second right turn, this lateral goes down to the Upper Miha Housing area)

■ Water well(s) affected: None

■ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

The purpose of the scheduled power interruption is to de-energize utility lines such that CUC linemen are able to safely straighten one leaning primary power pole that was damaged from Super Typhoon Yutu within the affected area.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area. (PR)

19,580 square meters.

Camacho also distributed to Guadalupe, Benjamin, Kelvin, and Patrick equal and undivided interest in a lot in Kanat Eddod in Garapan containing an area of 25,903 square meters, and a lot in Garapan containing an area of 4,317 square meters.

The judge distributed to Edward a tract containing an area of 947 square meters, and to Luis Jr. a tract containing an area of 929 square meters.

Camacho said rental payments from the lease agreement made by and between the estate and Saipan International Shooting Range Inc. be distributed equally to Guadalupe, Benjamin, Kelvin, and Patrick.

Camacho said upon the expiration of such lease agreement, the reversionary interest shall revert back to Guadalupe, Benjamin, Kelvin, and Patrick in equal and undivided interests.

The judge said there are no



Camacho

claims and creditors made against the estate.

With the distribution of the assets, Camacho released Edward from his duties and responsibilities of the estate administrator.

Camacho heard Edward's petition for a decree of final distribution of their father's assets last July 9. Edward appeared with counsel, Rosemond B. Santos.

Camacho said a notice of hearing on petition for letters of administration, a notice to creditors, and a notice of hearing on petition for decree of final distribution were previously published in a newspaper of general circulation in the CNMI.

Camacho said no objection was raised or filed. The

Dotts' law firm was served with a petition for decree of final distribution last June 30, but it did not file any objection in the probate case.

In his lawsuit, Ayuyu, through Dotts, asked the Superior Court to issue a judgment declaring him as the owner in fee simple absolute of the property.

According to Dotts in the complaint, the Marianas Public Land Corp. deeded the property to Luis and Guadalupe Cepeda on Oct. 18, 1983. Luis Cepeda passed away in 2000 and at the time of his passing, Guadalupe was his lawful wedded wife, Dotts said. On Nov. 4, 2001, Guadalupe Cepeda conveyed the property to her son, Benjamin Cepeda, by deed of gift.

On Feb. 9, 2006, Benjamin Cepeda conveyed the property to Jose C. Ayuyu by warranty deed, Dotts said that, then Jose C. Ayuyu and Marcia E. Ayuyu conveyed the property to their son, Jose E. Ayuyu Jr., by deed of gift on Dec. 6, 2008.

Dotts said that on multiple occasions Edward Cepeda, the son of Luis and Guadalupe, has come into the property and asserted it as his. Dotts

said Edward Cepeda and any other heir of Luis M. Cepeda

have no right, title, or interests in the property.

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US House OKs defense bill with Kilili's small business act

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Businesses in the Marianas would have new access to two grant programs and microloans from the Small Business Administration as the result of statutory changes Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) added to the National Defense Authorization this week.

Sablan amended the annual defense bill with his own Northern Mariana Islands Small Business Act, H.R. 2603, during floor debate on Monday and the House passed the Defense Act the following day.

The Northern Mariana Islands Small Business Act will allow the Marianas to establish a Lead Small Business Development Center, which would make available around

\$600,000 in renewable funding to expand the reach and capacity of the existing Small Business Development Center on Saipan. With this additional funding, small businesses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota could have access to free or low-cost services such as incubator workspaces for entrepreneurs, assistance with loan applications, business planning, operations, personnel administration, marketing, export assistance, sales, and other requirements for growth and success.

Sablan's bill, also, includes the Marianas in the SBA's Federal and State Technology partnership program. FAST grants fund outreach and technical assistance to small businesses interested in competing

for the federal Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs.

And aspiring entrepreneurs and small businesses owners would gain access to the SBA's Microloan program, as a result of Sablan's Small Business Act. The program provides loans up to \$50,000, typically not offered by banks, for working capital or the acquisition of materials, supplies, or equipment. In addition, the microloan program, which is targeted to help women, low-income, veteran, and minority entrepreneurs, provides marketing, management, and technical assistance to borrowers.

Sablan introduced his legislation in May 2019 and has been

working ever since to package it into a larger, must-pass bill. For over half a century, Congress has never failed to pass the an-

nual defense measure.

"With the Marianas economy struggling during the pandemic the 1,700 small busi-

nesses [on] our islands need all the help we can give them to survive and get back on their feet," he said. **(PR)**

8 contact tracers for CNMI

The CNMI has a total of eight contract tracers, the front line of response to COVID-19, whose main job is to identify additional individuals who could have been exposed to the person under investigation and to investigate their risk of exposure.

According to Subroto Banerji, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s chief operations officer, the contact tracers handle a series of investigations that includes questionnaires, determining risk factors, and risk of exposure.

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, contact tracing has evolved to include issues beyond the pandemic and to "utilize COVID-19 resources to create what we're referring to now as an all-hazards contact investigation team, so the CHCC approach moving forward is not going to be stovepipe. It's going to be an integrated approach. So this team will evolve and be able to be multidisciplinary," said Banerji.

Banerji added that the team not only identifies contacts but also interviews and conducts observations on where the PUI live. Paramount to that effort, he said, is building trust. "It's important to understand that confidentiality is key and not everybody wants to give information readily or right away," he said. "It takes some time to

be able to get information out to avoid stigma, and any concerns that the individual may have by sharing information. So building that trust is another training we give but it's also something that's learned."

Meanwhile, with home quarantine now discontinued unless the person meets the COVID-19 public guidance criteria, the Kanoa Resort in Susupe will remain the default quarantine for all arriving passengers.

To date, the CNMI has a total of 38 COVID-19 cases, with two deaths.

COVID-19 in Guam

According to the Joint Information Center on Guam, the Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 283 individuals for COVID-19 last July 22. Two tested positive and 281 tested negative. Both cases were identified through community screening. One case reported recent travel.

To date, Guam has a total of 332 confirmed cases with five deaths, 244 released from isolation, and 83 active cases. Of those cases, 283 are classified as civilians and 49 are military service members. **(Justine Nauta)**

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Maintain responsibility for performance of all sales activities within an assigned territory; Establish and strategically build a solid customer base; Analyze the sales process in an effort to refine and improve its success and establish sales reporting framework; Achieve the highest levels of customer satisfaction with all customer interaction. Req: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration; Must have taken a course of "Strategic Management" and "Business Finance". Send Resume & Transcript to BE TO CORPORATION, ATTN: Young Ki LEE, P.O.BOX 7670 SVRB Saipan, MP 96950.



Employment Opportunities

Greenskeeper Supervisor: Must have 3 to 5 years-experience at a golf course with supervisory experience. You must be knowledgeable in maintaining greens, also dependable and able to motivate a crew. Also, scheduling and issuing daily assignments. Salary negotiated with experience.

Accounting Clerk also needed.

These positions include health and vacation benefits and increase after a 90-day probationary period. US citizens only.

To apply: Drop off résumé at the accounting office of Saipan Vegas Resort (next to McDonald's Middle Rd) Office located at the left side of property (white house with blue trim).

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-20-006

Archaeological Services for S19-068 Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) & W19-070 Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from Archaeologists or firms that meet the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan, to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 Review of the National Historic Preservation Act for FY19 for the construction of a sewerline replacement in Lower MIHA & the construction of a waterline replacement in San Antonio, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.

The projects have been broken down into the following detail:

S19-068 Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) – This project proposes to install approximately 700 linear feet of new 8-inch gravity sewer pipe in order to abandon an existing collapsed sewerline that was installed on private property. The project includes the installation of new manholes and the reconnection of existing sewer service laterals to the new sewer main.

W19-070 Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement – The project aims to upgrade and replace the existing ACP distribution main in San Antonio Village. This project will install about 2.1 miles of new 6-inch distribution main and .50 miles of 4-inch distribution main. The project will also include the replacement of all fire hydrants, gate valves, relocation and reconnection of existing service laterals, installation of new flush hydrants, air release valves, and asphalt road restoration.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

- Conducting the necessary research and fieldwork that represents a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties, to include archaeological resources, as set out in the regulations 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(1):
 - Background research design and work plan;
 - Archival background information;
 - Sample field investigation, and field survey;
 - Past planning, research and studies;
 - The magnitude and nature of the undertaking;
 - The degree of federal involvement;
 - The nature and extent of potential effects on historic properties within the APE;
 - The likely nature, identification and location of historic properties within the APE; and,
 - Create a mitigation plan to resolve adverse effects.
- Preparation of the necessary reports and letters for submittal to various federal and local resource agencies to address environmental requirements of Section 106 to completely secure concurrence for the projects ready for construction.
- Deliverables
 - 2 copies of the final report for review and approval to HPO and CUC, and
 - Map showing the location of identified historic properties which would assist with alignment of the new waterline and sewerline to avoid such properties.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the PROPOSAL must be submitted in a SEALED ENVELOPE marked "CUC-RFP-20-006: Archaeological Services For Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) & Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 27, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP; if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Northern Marianas Humanities Council

Navigating the Human Experience

Vacancy Announcement

PROGRAM OFFICER Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is looking for a dynamic and enthusiastic team player for the position of Program Officer. The Program Officer works creatively to develop and implement a variety of humanities programs and events and manages the Council's Community Grants program. A detailed description of the Program Officer's duties and responsibilities may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at www.nmhscouncil.org.

Applicants for this position are expected to demonstrate: (1) cultural competencies and inclusiveness in communications and program implementation; (2) ability to prioritize and undertake multiple, diverse activities and programs; (3) flexibility and willingness to respond to stakeholders and special assignments to meet project goals and organizational needs; (4) strong analytic skills for identifying issues and solutions; (5) ability to lead a team and work in a collaborative environment; (6) exceptional organizational skills and attention to detail; and (7) strong writing and communication skills.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree, preferably in the humanities; and relevant experience in program and event planning, assessment and evaluation, and grants management. The salary range is from \$35,000 to \$40,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the Council's Personnel Policy Manual and include vacation leave, sick leave, personal days, health insurance and IRA contributions.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including: (1) a Letter of Interest; (2) a detailed resume; (3) a recent writing sample (500-800 words; preferably on a humanities topic); (4) three Letters of Recommendations; and (5) names and addresses of three references to Leo Pangelinan, Executive Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, PO Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950. Complete application packages must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2020. For more information about this employment opportunity please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.



BUDGET TALKS

Department of Public Safety staff and officials led by Commissioner Robert Guerrero attend a House Ways & Means Committee hearing on the budget of the department during a budget hearing at the CNMI House of Representatives last July 15, 2020. Guerrero later walked out of the hearing.

IVA MAURIN

Thunderstorms to persist

The National Weather Service of Tiyan Guam sees isolated thunderstorms to persist throughout the week up to next week.

According to NWS' forecast, from Thursday through Friday, the CNMI should expect partly cloudy weather with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

Friday night will be mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms with east winds at 10 to 15 mph. Throughout Saturday, people in the CNMI should expect mostly cloudy weather with

isolated showers and thunderstorms.

From Sunday through Monday, mostly cloudy weather is expected with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.

From Monday night through Tuesday night, weather will be mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.

On Wednesday, the weather is expected to lighten up with partly sunny weather with isolated showers and thunderstorms. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**

2 naturalization ceremonies at new Gualo Rai courthouse

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands will conduct two naturalization ceremonies in Saipan on July 28. At these ceremonies, 49 immigrants will become U.S. citizens. Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona will preside.

Those taking the oath of allegiance are mostly from the Philippines (38), with two each from Russia, Thailand, and Japan. Also represented are Bangladesh, Hong Kong, South Korea, Mexico, and

Mauritius, for a total of 49.

The first ceremony will take place at 10am, while the second will take place at 3pm. Both ceremonies will be held at the new federal courthouse in Gualo Rai.

The court plans to stream the ceremonies on Facebook Live. Those who would like to view the ceremonies should click on the link below: <https://www.facebook.com/DistrictCourtNMI/>.

USCIS naturalized 833,000 people in fiscal year 2019, an 11-year high. **(USCIS)**

Water outage in Upper Gualo Rai

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled water service interruption for the upper Gualo Rai area on Monday, July 27, 2020, from 8am to 12pm.

The purpose of the scheduled water interruption is to allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas, to perform system improvements by cutting and capping the existing 6-inch Asbestos Cement Pipe line. As a result a more reliable water system will be provided. This work is part of CUC's Gualo

Rai Waterline Replacement Project funded by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

CUC appreciates the public's understanding and cooperation throughout this scheduled water outage and will continue to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(CUC)**



MANGROVES of the Marianas

Mangroves are vital ecosystems throughout the tropical world, and the Marianas is no exception. Saipan is home to four species of mangroves, and of these the most recognizable is *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza* or "oriental mangrove". Mangroves provide many critical ecosystem services, including shoreline protection from storms, sediment accretion, water filtration, and creating nursery habitat for commercially important fisheries species. Mangroves are also habitat for many of CNMI's threatened or endangered species, including golden white-eye (*Cleptornis marchei*) and the Marianas fruit dove (*Ptilinopus roseicapilla*).

Last Thursday, July 16th, the Division of Coastal Resources Management's 2020 Internship Cohort had the opportunity to learn about the CNMI's coastal wetlands. Zachary Williams, Watershed Coordinator, and Ilan Bubb, Coral Fellow, led a nature walk for the DCRM interns along the coastline of American Memorial Park (AMP). They learned how to identify native plant species, invasive plant species, and even saw some of our endangered wildlife species, such as the Mariana Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus guami*). You can see Saipan's diverse mangrove ecosystems all along AMP through Smiling Cove Marina. These coastal wetlands are situated within the Garapan/ West Takpochao Watershed, one of CNMI's priority watersheds.

To learn more about the CNMI's coastal wetlands, watershed management, or other ongoing programs and projects, visit our website at www.dcrm.gov.mp or contact DCRM at outreach@dcrm.gov.mp!



Curious skink (*Carlia aylanpalai*)



Mariana moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus guami*)



Golden white-eye (*Cleptornis marchei*)



Land crab (*Cardisoma carnifex*)



Oriental mangrove (*Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*)



Ilan Bubb, Coastal Fellow, shows some of the invertebrate species found within AMP.



Zak Williams, Watershed Coordinator, shows a swimmer crab found within AMP.



Hermit crab (*Coenobita rugosus*)



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DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
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Tan pushes quality over quantity in tourism approach

With the CNMI's tourism industry at a standstill, it would be a good time for the Marianas Visitors Authority to recalibrate its approach to tourism markets—this time for the CNMI to lure more tourists with higher spending power, according to Jerry Tan, who chairs the newly created Governor's Council of Economic Advisers.

Speaking at Tuesday's regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Tan, who used to be a member of the MVA board, is batting for a quality over quantity approach when it comes to choosing the CNMI's next tourist mar-

kets, especially now that the islands will soon be rebooting its tourist industry following months of inactivity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This comes with the recognition that most of the CNMI's tourists are not big spenders.

"We cannot think about quantity, we have to think about quality. We want quality tourists," he said.

Tan said there's also no better time than now to spruce up the CNMI's tourist sites, considering that the pandemic



Tan

has zeroed out the islands' visitor arrivals.

"The best time to clean up and upgrade is now because there are no tourists. It is not affecting them. We don't want to be renovating or constructing when they are here," he added.

Before the MVA can do anything to upgrade the CNMI's tourist sites, however, the community should first know how to take care and maintain the infrastructure so the improvement won't go to waste, he said.

"How about we do our

own work? Take care of our sites on our islands first. Right now, it is unacceptable," said Tan, adding that the CNMI also needs a quality airport to make a good first impression on the first-class tourists it hopes to attract in the future. "We don't need a fancy or a big one but it has to be an airport product that would give a right and a good impression during their arrival and departure," he added.

This becomes doubly crucial because, after the pandemic, island destinations will be in great demand, according to him.

With the right mix of gov-

ernment and private sector cooperation, Tan believes the CNMI has what it takes to improve its tourism marketability and ultimately become a world-class destination.

"I truly believe that we can become a world-class island destination. Once we put our act together. Once we are committed to improving our sites, cleaning up, and keeping it safe. ...Quality tourists, quality investors, quality accommodations, and quality airport, we would have a successful economy and tourism industry because we would have a world-class destination," he added.

The strides made by the CNMI in the tourism industry

would help improve the local economy, as the public and private sectors would be able to create and maintain good-paying and secure jobs.

Tan envisions the CNMI becoming a world-class destination in 10 years, which will require the effort of everyone in the Commonwealth. "We all have a role to play."

A vibrant economy would then result in an improved way of life for the people of the Commonwealth. "The most important for me is quality of life. This all comes down to our residents in the Commonwealth," said Tan, who is also president of TanHoldings, the mother company of *Saipan Tribune*. (Chevy Alipio)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP20-GOV-085**

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 10, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**"PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES
FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF MILITARY AFFAIRS"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

PRE-PROPOSAL QUESTIONS — ANY QUESTIONS AND/OR CLARIFICATIONS SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO **MS. GLENNA SP REYES** IN WRITING VIA EMAIL TO glenna.sp.reyes.ao@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **04:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JULY 27, 2020**. ALL QUESTIONS AND/OR CLARIFICATIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RALPH DLG. TORRES
GOVERNOR, CNMI

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ GLENNA SP. REYES
SA, MILITARY AFFAIRS

NOTICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS

CUC would like to inform its customers that
**Bank of Hawaii will no longer be accepting
CUC payments
effective August 1, 2020.**

CUC encourages you to stay home,
stay safe and **pay online** at
www.cucgov.org or **pay by phone** by
calling **1-855-729-2282 (PAY2CUC)**.

**You can also pay your CUC bill at
other convenient locations:**

- Bank of Guam branches
- Bank of Saipan branches
- CUC Customer Center - Joeten Dandan Bldg., Saipan
- CUC Customer Center - Sinapalo II, Rota
- CUC Customer Center - San Jose, Tinian

VEHICLES FOR SALE
"AS IS"

**2018
TOYOTA COROLLA**

Last day for sale is August 14, 2020 at 3:00pm.
For more information, please call Loans
Department at 235-6294. The Bank reserves the
right to refuse any and all bids.

Bank of Saipan

Marianas Pride

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-006-20

**SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
POWER PLANT BUILDING ROOFING
SYSTEM REPLACEMENT**

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal (the "RFP"), and other contract provisions, for the Saipan International Airport Power Plant Building Roofing System Replacement. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone (NMIAC §40-50-225(a)).

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIAC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The RFP Package is available beginning July 24, 2020, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Power Plant Building Roofing Systems Replacement (RFP-006-20). One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. Local Time, August 13, 2020**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER RENOVATIONS
Project No. CPA-SA-004-17**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Air Traffic Control Tower Renovations, No. CPA-SA-004-17, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this RFQ shall be addressed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager and delivered to the CPA Administration office, faxed to (670) 234-5962, or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than **Wednesday, July 29, 2020, 5:00 p.m.**, local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications. Qualification statements shall be submitted by no later than **5:00 p.m., MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020 (CHST)** to the office of the Executive Director. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 14, 2020

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2020

Opening date: July 22, 2020 Closing date: August 11, 2020

Positions: (1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer (Rota)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, August 11, 2020**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

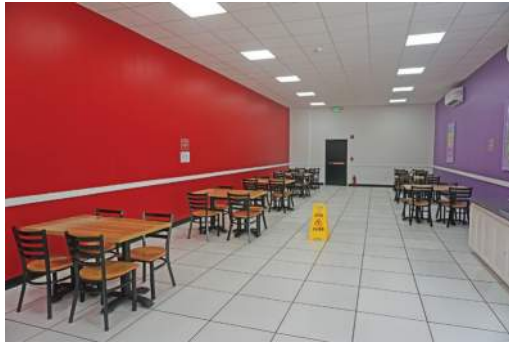
Newly renovated KFC and Taco Bell opens for dine-in



DONNA RIVERA

The new facade of KFC/Taco Bell in Chalan Kanoa.

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT



BEA CABRERA

The new dining area of KFC/Taco Bell has reserved seating for 40.

After several months of repair work and extensive renovations, both KFC and Taco Bell have reopened on Saipan, this time with an expansive dining area that is more than adequate to comply with current social distancing rules.

The two iconic fast food chains on Saipan officially opened their doors for dine-in customers in Chalan Kanoa last week, ensuring customers a clean and safe environment amid the pandemic and providing customers a much enjoyable dining experience every time.

The renovated restaurant is divided into two areas.

First, the queuing area where the counter is located and orders are taken. The area is spacious, complimented by bright KFC/Taco Bell colors and complete with floor markings or arrows to guide customers where to go and encourage social distancing. The queuing area aims to give customers a convenient space and organized system to place their orders.

Second, both the queuing and dining area can accommodate close to 200 customers but currently implementing 50% capacity—a maximum of 68 people for the whole restaurant and—due to the social distancing protocol—a seating capacity is 40.

The pandemic has been a challenge for many businesses and KFC/Taco Bell lives up to the challenge, going with the mantra “Responding to COVID-19 together.”

Store manager Yole Aldan said that they adhere to the health and safety protocols set by Yum! (the worldwide operator of KFC/Taco Bell), and guidelines set by the CNMI government, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and CNMI COVID-19 Task Force.

KFC/Taco Bell assures a spotless restaurant where all surfaces like counters, door handles, chairs, tables and restaurants are sanitized every 30 minutes. Safety mode is always on as they require customers to wear masks and,

for employees, a mask and a face shield.

Hand sanitizers are available inside, temperature checks for both employees and customers are done every day and expect the food in take-away boxes and not in trays when dining in to minimize risk of contact and spread of virus.

As part of welcoming its customers back, KFC has an ongoing promo called “Fourth meal on us!” Buy any three of the KFC boxed meals and get a special chicken meal for free. Box 1 includes 3 pc. chicken, 2 small sides and medium drink for only \$10.29. Box 2

includes 2 pc. chicken, 2 small sides and medium drink for only \$8.09. Box 3 includes 3 pc. strips, 2

small sides and medium drink for only \$8.19 and the fourth and free meal includes 1 pc. chicken, 2 small sides and medium drink. Promo starts today, July 24, and will run up to July 31.

Another promo called “KFC-Niners” gives customers a special treat if their receipt numbers end with No. 9. It’s a KFC with a rice bowl on July 24, an XXL Twister on July 25, and a Double Crunch on July 26.

KFC will also launch its “Chomp Hour Deal” from July 31 to Aug. 7. For every \$25 single receipt purchase, get a free KFC gift voucher worth \$5. Chomp hours run everyday from 11am to 2pm and 6pm to 8pm.

Promos never end as KFC has a “Snack Attack” that changes menu every week. For this week, from 3pm to 5pm, enjoy options of 1 pc. chicken with 2 sides, a small popcorn chicken with 1 side and famous bowl with masked potato rice bowl with small side for only \$4.49 each.

KFC Contactless Delivery is available for a minimum purchase of \$20 plus \$5 delivery charge every day from 10am to 7pm. Call (670) 234-6523 or (670) 989-6110.

Jones & Guerrero, is the local franchisee of KFC and Taco Bell on Saipan and they are always committed to giving the community the best meals and deals. “We are excited to welcome you back.

Have you KFC way: dine-in, take-out or delivery,” said Ramona Jones, Jones & Guerrero/KFC and Taco Bell CEO.



Store manager Yole Aldan, center, with the staff and crew of KFC/Taco Bell Saipan located in Chalan Kanoa.



FOURTH MEAL ON US!

BUY ANY 3 OF THE KFC BOXED MEALS AND GET A SPECIAL CHICKEN MEAL FOR FREE!

Box 1

**3pc Chicken
2 Small Side
Medium Drink**

\$10.29

Box 2

**2pc Chicken
2 Small Side
Medium Drink**

\$8.09

Box 3

**3pc Strips
2 Small Side
Medium Drink**

\$8.19

FREE

**1pc Chicken
2 Small Side
Medium Drink**

PROMO PERIOD: JULY 24 - 31, 2020

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER

KFC-Niners

ALL CUSTOMERS WITH A RECEIPT NUMBER ENDING IN 9 WILL GET A SPECIAL TREAT DURING OUR KFC-NINERS WEEKEND!

**JULY 24, 2020
FRIDAY**



RICE BOWL

**JULY 25, 2020
SATURDAY**



XXL TWISTER

**JULY 26, 2020
SUNDAY**



DOUBLE CRUNCH

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Recommendations and good graces aren't enough. It's time to penalize those who don't follow smart coronavirus protocols

Last week, a group of people in Australia were caught at a birthday party in violation of new lockdown orders amid a surge in COVID-19 cases. Police issued fines to 16 people, totaling more than \$18,000.

The fines might seem steep, but they serve a purpose in encouraging people who should know better to follow the rules and take the coronavirus pandemic seriously.

And as the coronavirus continues to spread across much of the United States, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont should put in place stronger enforcement of simple coronavirus protections such as wearing masks and quarantining.

So far, we've relied on the good graces of our fellow Nutmeggers to choose to wear masks, keep their distance and wash their hands. For the most part, we've agreed to take those steps, and the result is clear: Connecticut's COVID-19 transmission rate is among the lowest in the nation.

But how long can we continue to rely on good intentions, especially when it comes to travelers from states where masks are optional—or scorned—and the virus is spreading out of control?

In recent weeks, Gov. Lamont has steadily added to the list of states from which travelers are asked to quarantine—nearly half of the nation is included. Air travelers from those states will be asked to fill out a form and quarantine for two weeks.

Key word: Asked.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is taking a harder line. All air travelers coming into New York must give contact and itinerary information or face a \$2,000 fine. Courts can even order that a person be quarantined.

Connecticut should go that route as well. Tougher enforcement is needed. Travelers from high-risk states must be required to register and quarantine upon arrival, and there should be spot checks to ensure compliance. Mask-wearing in public should be a law enforceable with fines.

The coronavirus is slippery. Outbreaks are difficult to control and impossible to predict. But we know that mask-wearing and social distancing works, combined with rigorous testing. We rarely see people in Connecticut without masks in public. For the most part, we have agreed to take care of each other, and nonsensical complaints that masks somehow violate our "freedoms" don't gain much traction. In that, we are fortunate.

See **PROTOCOLS** on Next Page

NEWS ITEM: RUSSIAN HACKERS ACCUSED OF TRYING TO STEAL COVID-19 VACCINE RESEARCH...

Jorge @ 2020 KING FEATURES



July 25, 1945: The decision of the century

President Harry Truman was in Potsdam, Germany on July 16, 1945, discussing postwar Europe with Churchill and Stalin. That evening, Secretary of War Henry Stimson walked into Truman's villa and handed him an encrypted message from Washington, D.C.: "Operated on this morning. Diagnosis not yet complete, but results seem satisfactory and already exceed expectations..."

The Trinity Test of a plutonium-based bomb had been successful. Suddenly, there was an alternative to an invasion of Japan. Nonetheless, the Chiefs of Staff remained vehement that the only certain way to end the war was to invade. The Japanese had fought every battle to the bitter end and, in their opinion, would never surrender until armed Americans entered the Emperor's palace. Young Americans who had fought in Europe and North Africa were notified they were being re-routed to the Pacific.

To use the bomb, or not to use the bomb. To end the war immediately by using first generation weapons of mass destruction, or clamp down on the blockade of Japan and continue the merciless bombing until the Japanese burn or starve to death. Which would be less inhumane?

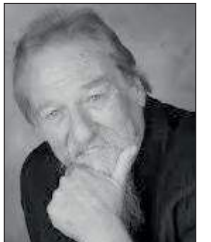
The war in Asia was still raging. Some 5,000 Allied men, along with thousands more Japanese and Chinese, were dying daily in rotting jungles between Burma and the Philippines. If he did not use the bomb, what would he tell the mothers of all those young men who died waiting for Japan to surrender?

On July 25, Secretary of War Henry Stimson handed President Truman a copy of the draft order for the use of atom bombs against Japan:

"The 509th Composite Group, 20th Air Force will deliver its first special bomb as soon as weather will permit visual bomb-

By **DON FARREL**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Don Farrell is author of the acclaimed book *Tinian and The Bomb*, available on line at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07BMTVF1K>



ing after about 3 August 1945 on one of the targets: Hiroshima,

Kokura, Niigata and Nagasaki. ...Additional bombs will be delivered on the above targets as soon as made ready by the project staff."

Truman made his decision:

"Suggestion approved.

"Release when ready.

"But not sooner than August 2."

HST

Truman reserved the right to revoke the order up to the last moment, but the wheels were in motion. Stimson said later that it was their "least abhorrible option."

On July 26, 1945, Truman, Churchill, and Chiang Kai-shek issued

an ultimatum to Japan and broadcast it around the world: "We call upon the Government of Japan to proclaim now the unconditional surrender of all the Japanese armed forces, and to provide proper and adequate assurances of their good faith in such action. The alternative for Japan is prompt and utter destruction."

Note that the message required only the surrender of all the

See **JULY** on Next Page



This photo shows the three atomic bomb assembly buildings just to the northwest of North Field, the secret 1st Ordnance Area just west of the field, and the atomic bomb loading pits. Photo courtesy Leon Smith, 509th

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Lee Pan's glass house**

Before you criticize and publicly try to shame the American Memorial Park on Saipan and the federal government for minor maintenance issues, perhaps you should look at the conditions within your own house.

While you hurl contentious rocks, you are most definitely standing in a glass house—a house where sidewalks in every CNMI-funded park have areas that are elevated by roots that are trip hazards; a house where large portions of the concrete are missing or have sunk on the sidewalk between the last Command Post and Suicide Cliff, like portions large enough for someone to fall in and literally roll down into a ravine, especially if you walked through there at night (Maybe you should look for some of the island's missing persons at the bottom of that hill but that's another subject. Back to your glass house); a house where concrete benches are cracked; where trash cans overflow and litter is everywhere; where public showers and restrooms either don't work or are nonexistent; where there is no lighting on the sidewalks (walk through American Memorial Park at night if you want to see how that's done right).

You are lucky OSHA doesn't eat your lunch over this and all the other safety hazards at CNMI parks and public areas—a house where the day after any festival the grounds look like someone intentionally spread trash for hours and it stays that

way for days on end; a house rife with abandoned buildings because you suck at managing real estate or any permitting process; a house where cows are not only allowed to defecate all over the parks but also on the graves of brave veterans that gave their lives so you have the freedom to spew your ungrateful BS; a house that allowed an eyesore casino to be built in the ideal central location for festivals (imagine that); a house that has been provided hundreds of millions of dollars in federal disaster funds but yet you complain how a federal park manages its resources. Like literally federal dollars are feeding your constituents while unemployed due to COVID-19. Does CNMI pay unemployment insurance like every other state? That answer is no. Does CNMI reap the benefit of unemployment checks anyway? Yes.

So again, you complain about the upkeep of the American Memorial Park, a federally funded site, and yet you continue to hold your hand out accepting federal funds because you clearly can't manage your own affairs. Why do you want the park? It's blatantly obvious. So you can charge admission fees, charge vendors to have booths, and continue to line your pocket through the guise of community betterment.

You want to know why the federal government or the American Memorial Park doesn't allow events to be held on its properties? It's not because they don't want to better the community. It's because self-gain or profit on a federal site violates countless federal laws. I'm sure if all the site use request or festival use request wasn't a ploy to make money, the memorial park would be more willing to entertain those type of events.

That said, if you think the veterans in this community will

stand idle and let you or anyone else profit on ground that is supposed to honor the sacrifice of nearly 3,500 soldiers, sailors, and marines, you are mistaken.

Mica F. Cochran

Capital Hill, Saipan

July is Bereaved Parents Awareness Month

As a continued effort every year during the month of July, we bring awareness of Bereaved Parents Awareness Month. We, the community of bereaved parents, continue to advocate on what bereaved parents go through after the loss of a child. We discuss the physical and mental issues during our time of grief. No matter the age, no matter the cause, we come together to support one another.

This month, we come together again with a Walk to Remember on July 24 at 5pm. The meet will be at The Shack, followed by a walk along the beach. Paradise Dental will be providing water. Please feel free to bring a snack to share. Bereaved parents are welcome to bring a picture of your child.

The community is invited to show support to the parents who have lost a child. Thank you for your support.

Tania Marie Mendiola

via email

JULY

From Page 12

Japanese armed forces, not their emperor.

American radio stations transmitted the message to Japan. On July 27, millions of pamphlets containing excerpts from the ultimatum were printed on Saipan and dropped on major Japanese cities from B-29s. Japanese Premier Adm. Kantarō Suzuki responded, referring to the ultimatum as “a rehash of the Cairo Declaration, and the government therefore does not consider it of great importance. We must mokusatsu it (kill it with silence).”

Allied forces were ordered to maintain “unrelenting pressure” against Japan. LeMay now announced the names of the cities he would bomb, dropping millions of leaflets stating, “We give the military clique this notification of our plans because we know there is nothing they can do to stop our overwhelming power and our iron determination. We want you to know how powerless the military is to protect you.”

On Aug. 1, Air Force Day, 1945, LeMay sent 800 B-29s from the five bases on Saipan, Tinian and Guam to bomb Japan. They

flew with impunity; there was no Japanese defense of any significance. That same day, General Spaatz flew to Manila and handed General MacArthur a copy of the order to drop the bombs, then returned to Guam. He had already given a copy to Nimitz.

Still, no message from Tokyo.

The weather over Japan was looking good for after Aug. 4.

General Carl Spaatz issued the Centerboard order to General LeMay on Guam, who forwarded it to General James Davies, C.O. of the 313th Bomb Wing on Tinian, who issued it to Colonel Paul Tibbets, C.O. of the 509th Bomb Group.



USS Indianapolis just off Tinian after delivering key components of the Little Boy atom bomb. Photo courtesy Leon Smith.

PROTOCOLS

From Page 12

But since we know that mask-wearing and social distancing is so effective, why are we hesitating to enforce it? We have hundreds of laws on the books that are there only for health and safety, to allow society to function in an orderly way. We stop at traffic lights, drive on the right and wear seat belts. We agree to background checks before buying guns. We immunize our children (for the most part). It's possible that we would choose to adhere to this cooperative system without laws, but the laws help encourage us to do the right thing for the good of all of our friends and neighbors.

The coronavirus is one of the greatest threats society has ever faced. Why not enforce the rules that we know greatly reduce the risk of spread? Other countries have figured it out.

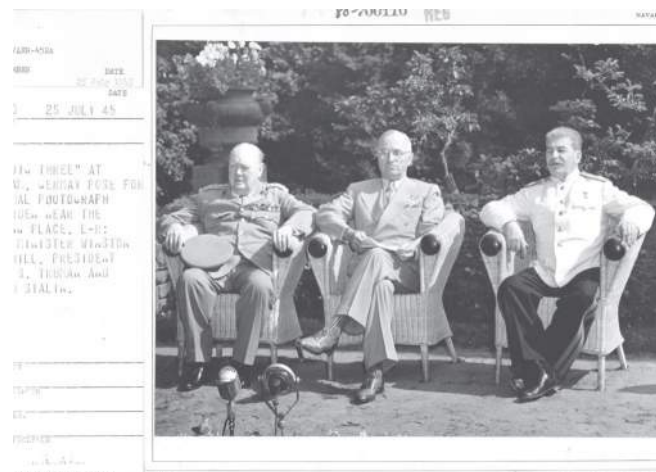
Governments have the right to enforce mask-wearing, and while Gov. Lamont has so far relied on trust to make it happen, the sudden increase in COVID-19 cases across the country raises the question of whether trust is enough.

If everyone in the country adhered to mask-wearing and social-distancing standards, the virus could be brought well under control, quickly, and the economy could begin to recover, schools could resume, and our lives could come back to some kind of new normal.

What are we waiting for?



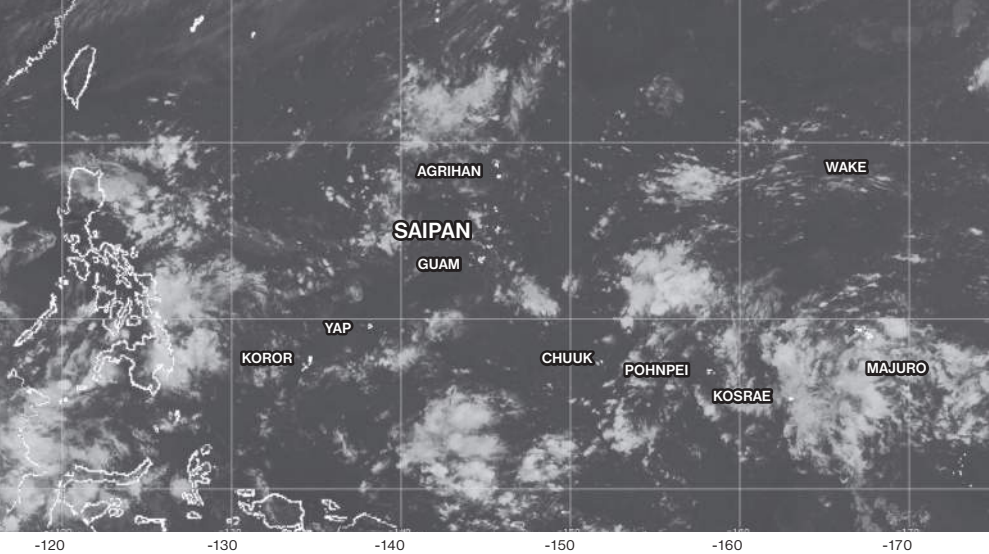
Seen here, from left, are Soviet Union Marshal Joseph Stalin, U.S. President Harry Truman, and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill the day before Truman's decision to use the bombs. Photo courtesy National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 80.



British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, U.S. President Harry Truman, and Soviet Union Marshal Joseph Stalin pose for a photo at Potsdam. It is July 25. Truman has made his decision to use the bomb. Photo courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 80.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
90°	79°	89°	78°	90°	79°	89°	78°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:31 AM, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters, with an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Guam waters. An upper-level low northwest of the Marianas is continuing to spark these nearby thunderstorms. The buoys reveal combined seas of 2 to 4 feet which are composed mainly of east-northeast trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- ### Continue good hand hygiene

 - Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

 - Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Monday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:05 AM	9:51 PM	-
Saturday	10:03 AM	10:35 PM	-
Sunday	11:00 AM	11:18 PM	-
Monday	11:57 AM	-	-
Tuesday	-	12:02 AM	12:54 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	56° / 47°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	98° / 71°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°	
London	Partly Cloudy	76° / 61°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	80° / 61°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	92° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 42°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	88° / 73°	
Osaka	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	81° / 62°	
Busan	Rain	77° / 72°	
Rome	Sunny	91° / 70°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	91° / 74°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	63° / 55°	
Seoul	Rain	78° / 70°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	83° / 72°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	90° / 74°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:27 AM	LOW TIDE	1.28	
9:19 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.07	
4:31 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.02	
11:22 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.15	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 117	7:30AM	8:10AM	1,4,6	UA 174	5:50AM	6:30AM	1,4,6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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COVID-19 Task Force green-lights MCS facilities

Mount Carmel School welcomed the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force to its campus last Tuesday, July 21, 2020, to inspect and evaluate the school's preparation efforts prior to the new school year. Mount Carmel School is scheduled to open on Thursday, Aug. 6, 2020.

Prior to the COVID-19 Task Force visit, Mount Carmel School worked diligently throughout the summer to secure ample safety and sanitation equipment in order to resume face-to-face

and online classes. Additionally, the school made many adjustments to its facilities and school policies and procedures to adhere to the "best practices" shared by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

On the morning of the site visit, members of Mount Carmel School's Leadership Team met with the chairman of the COVID-19 Task Force, Warren Villagomez.



On Tuesday, July 21, 2020, Mount Carmel School welcomed the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force to its campus to evaluate the school's preparation efforts prior to the start of the new school year. Mount Carmel School is scheduled to open on Thursday, Aug. 6, 2020. Photo, from left to right, include Warren Villagomez, COVID-19 Task Force chairman; Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, MCS president; Bobby Baldazo, school vice principal; Francis Taimanao, school principal; Benjamin Babauta Sr., MCS board of directors chairman; and John Blanco, business manager.

MCS

NMC nursing graduates pass NCLEX-RN



Haram Lee.

NMC

Northern Marianas College nursing graduates Liqi Huang and Haram Lee have joined the list of students who passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or NCLEX-RN.

The two graduated from the college in May of this year.

"I want to congratulate Liqi and Haram on becoming the latest graduates to pass this difficult exam and look forward to hearing more about their success as medical professionals," NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico said.

The NCLEX-RN tests an individual's nursing knowledge, skills and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level. The exam is used by nursing boards in all U.S. states and territories to award nursing licenses.

"Liqi and Haram have all worked very hard in studying and preparing themselves to pass the NCLEX-RN exam," said NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Aldan. "I applaud them for their efforts and dedication and we are proud of their accomplishments. I have no doubt that they will do their very best for our people."

Huang and Lee passed the NCLEX on their first



Liqi Huang.

NMC

attempt. According to Huang, the reason why she wanted to pursue a nursing career is so that she could help and care for people. "The coronavirus pandemic motivated me even more to become a nurse," Huang said. "I really respect all the nurses who are working during this pandemic."

Huang said that NMC provided many resources for her to prepare for the exam. "I really liked the Kaplan program provided by NMC, which is a good resource for practicing and preparing for the NCLEX," Huang said. "I also really appreciated how patient and helpful my instructors were."

For Lee, the nursing program gave her the help she needed to pass the exam. "There was a live NCLEX-review course available for us to take," Lee said. "We were able to receive tips and other training on how to be well prepared for the NCLEX."

Lee's advice for others who are taking the exam is to not stress too much. "Find the study habits that fit you best," Lee said.

For more information about NMC's nursing program, email Aldan at rosaldan@marianas.edu or schedule a virtual appointment at rosaldan.youcanbook.me. (NMC)

During the tour, Villagomez was presented with two sample classrooms for inspection and discussed Mount Carmel School's adjusted safety policies and procedures to mitigate viral transmission.

During the meeting, Mount Carmel School assured Villagomez that the school will follow the CNMI Policies and Procedures for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Educational Institutions. As part of the current policies and procedures in place, MCS redesigned its classrooms to ensure 6 feet of physical distance between desks that will have plexiglass cubicles as an additional precaution.

Teachers, staff, students, and on campus guests will be required to wear face masks or shields. Should an individual lack a face mask, a disposable mask will be provided. Each classroom will also be equipped with disposable face masks for students. Proper hand-washing and hygiene will be taught and reinforced by all our teachers, and hand sanitizers will be readily available in all classrooms.

Once on campus, students will remain in the same classroom all day. Junior high and high school students will remain in their classrooms and teachers will move to those classrooms for different subjects.

Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected

twice a day, once in the morning before students and teachers arrive and once after students and teachers leave. Common areas, like restrooms, the cafeteria, and offices, will be cleaned more frequently throughout the day. To ensure the efficacy of this process, Mount Carmel School has contracted the same cleaning company that services the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. MCS has also procured UV lighting equipment that will further disinfect the circulated air in classrooms and common areas. Lunch and recess will also be held indoors and meals will be brought to each classroom.

During morning drop off, MCS will have two open stations: one at the gym and one at the Maturana driveway. For each station, students are to remain in their vehicles until allowed to exit by school officials.

Once a student or family of students exits their vehicle, they will be placed in a physically distanced line through which they will be guided toward screening points to take temperature and assess other symptoms. Once cleared, the student will proceed directly to their classroom.

For the lower grade-levels, only one parent may accompany their child to their classroom, but will not be permitted to stay inside or outside the class. After escorting their child, parents

must immediately return to their vehicles to prevent congregating. For afternoon pick up, MCS will have three pick up stations: one at the gym, one at the Maturana driveway, and one at the elementary entrance. Parents and families will not be permitted to exit their vehicles. Instead, school personnel will utilize a digital ticketing system to take student names, summon those students, and line them up following the 6-foot floor markers on the ground.

During drop-off and pick-up times, the Business Office and Main Office will be closed to relieve congestion and allow staff to assist with supervision.

If any individual on campus shows symptoms of COVID-19, that individual will be escorted to a waiting room as advised by the COVID-19 Task Force from where they will wait to leave campus. Physical distancing will be ensured within that room, hand sanitizers will be available, and the room will be deep cleaned and disinfected after each use. The room will be situated to allow for adequate supervision.

If there is a confirmed case on campus, that classroom cohort will be shut down and everyone in that area will transition to fully remote learning. If more than one case is confirmed on campus, the entire school will be shut down and everyone will transition to

fully remote learning.

"I visited the campus, saw the classrooms, and based on Mount Carmel School's holistic efforts, all the measures in place for student safety are being adhered to and will be followed," Villagomez said. "From the standard expectations like masks and hand sanitizers to the facility adjustments like the plexiglass, UV Air sanitizers, and floor markings, I want to say that MCS is a model private school that other private schools should look at, seek guidance, and follow suit. Of course, this is all in service of our efforts to minimize and mitigate the COVID-19 risk in the CNMI."

Mount Carmel School president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, said, "Thus far, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force has done an incredible job of keeping our islands safe, so we appreciate all that they have done and continue to do. ... The feedback from Mr. Villagomez is crucial to our next steps leading up to the start of the school year. We are grateful for the time he's given to ensure we will keep everyone in our school family safe when we reopen."

Although seats are limited, Mount Carmel School is accepting applications for specific grade levels. To submit an application, visit Mount Carmel School's website at www.mount-carmelsaipan.com. (PR)

Business

As restaurants endure economic losses, others feel pain, too

WASHINGTON (AP)—Restaurants helped revive the U.S. economy after the Great Recession of 2007-2009.

This time? Don't count on it. As the nation struggles to rebound from a now-resurgent coronavirus, restaurants seem much less likely to deliver an economic boost. They've suffered a heavy blow from lockdowns and occupancy restrictions, and it's unclear how readily Americans will return en masse to dining out.

Consider the Barrel Room, a San Francisco wine bar and restaurant whose owner cautiously reopened this month, hoping to salvage as much of 2020 as possible. To stay afloat after a lockdown took effect in March, the restaurant tried selling groceries and delivering alcoholic drinks to customers. Owner Sarah Trubnick also fought through red tape to obtain federal aid—a process she likened to living in a Kafka novel.

As confirmed infections climb, Trubnick is bracing for the worst.

"We are prepared at any minute to close again," she said. "It's a very stressful situation."

Across the nation, millions of restaurant jobs have vanished in the face of lockdowns. Just when eateries of all categories and price levels had been anticipating a summertime comeback, new viral cases are upending everything.

The damage extends beyond darkened kitchens and dining



AP
Sarah Trubnick, owner of The Barrel Room, wears a mask while interviewed at the restaurant in San Francisco, Tuesday, July 14, 2020.

rooms to the farms and wineries that supply them and the shopping centers that have grown to depend on restaurants as anchors to replace now-vanished stores that couldn't compete with Amazon and Walmart.

Chris Shepherd, owner and executive chef of Underbelly Hospitality in Houston, said in an online essay that he might have to close his four restaurants because his company's revenue is just 30% of what it was a year ago.

"I employ 200 people in this community," Shepherd wrote. "When I shut down, they lose their jobs. I'm no longer able to pay my farmers, cleaning companies, valet companies, linen companies, wineries, distilleries. Our reach is long."

Before the pandemic, restaurants had employed 11 million workers nationwide—more than the number who work in construction or in factories that produce high-priced manufactured goods. They

generated more revenue than grocery stores. From 1990 through February this year, restaurant jobs grew more than twice as fast (91%) as overall jobs (40%).

"The restaurant industry's role in the economy is outsized compared to its share of overall GDP," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. "As it is often among the first jobs for many workers, it is critical to the training of the American workforce. It is

United sees revenue stalling at 50% without a virus vaccine

United Airlines executives said Wednesday that travel will rise when the number of new coronavirus cases drops but the airline's revenue will stall around 50% of pre-pandemic levels until there is a vaccine.

No doubt United would settle for half of normal sales right now. Its revenue plunged 89% in the second quarter, pushing the Chicago company to a \$1.6 billion loss.

Air travel was slowly recovering until the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the U.S. surged, especially in the Sun Belt, starting around late June. New York, New Jersey and Connecticut now require visitors from 31 states to quarantine themselves for 14

days upon arrival, and other states have similar edicts.

About 530,000 people went through U.S. airport security checkpoints on Tuesday, the lowest number in July other than the Independence Day holiday, and down 78% from a year ago.

United executives said the setback will be only temporary.

"We do expect that demand recovery, which stalled in recent weeks, will begin to recover again when new cases start to fall, quarantines are lifted, and borders are reopened," Andrew Nocella, the airline's chief commercial officer, said Wednesday on a call with analysts and reporters.

Nocella said United's revenue will rise to 50% of nor-

mal "over time" and stay there until there is a vaccine for COVID-19, the disease produced by the coronavirus.

United and other airlines are trying to persuade consumers that air travel is safe. CEO Scott Kirby said that filtration systems and air-flow patterns inside planes make them safer than restaurants, office buildings, "or even a hospital."

"It really is one of the safest places you can be if you are going to leave your house," Kirby said.

Passengers have criticized United for booking planes full when it can. American does the same, while Delta, Southwest and JetBlue block some seats to create more space between passengers. United said

it limits full flights by substituting larger planes—4,000 times in May and June, it said.

United said its average flight from April through June was 35% full and it estimates the July average will be 45%.

United is focused on reducing costs to survive the downturn in travel. The airline estimates it will lose \$25 million a day during the third quarter, down from \$40 million a day in the second quarter.

Labor is the biggest single expense for most airlines, and United last week warned 36,000 employees that they could be furloughed in October. The company said 6,000 have taken severance packages to leave and will be paid through November.

US signs contract with Pfizer for COVID-19 vaccine doses

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration will pay Pfizer nearly \$2 billion for a December delivery of 100 million doses of a COVID-19 vaccine the pharmaceutical company is developing, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar announced Wednesday.

The U.S. could buy another 500 million doses under the agreement, Azar said.

"Now those would, of course, have to be safe and effective" and approved by the Food and Drug Administration, Azar said during an appearance on Fox News.

Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE announced separately that the agreement is with HHS and the Defense Department for a vaccine candidate the companies are developing jointly. It is the latest in a series of similar agreements with other vaccine companies.

The agreement is part of President Donald Trump's Operation Warp Speed vaccine program, under which multiple COVID-19 vaccines

are being developed simultaneously. The program aims to deliver 300 million doses of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine by January 2021.

Under the initiative, the government will speed development and buy vaccines—before they are deemed safe and effective—so that the medication can be in hand and quickly distributed once the FDA approves or authorizes its emergency use after clinical trials.

Trump, during a Wednesday briefing, described the agreement as "historic."

"We think we have a winner there. We also think we have other companies right behind that are doing very well in the vaccines, long ahead of schedule," he told reporters.

Pfizer and BioNTech said the U.S. will pay \$1.95 billion upon receipt of the first 100 million doses it produces, following FDA authorization or approval.

Americans will receive the vaccine for free, the companies said.

<div>STOCK</div> <div>PORTFOLIO</div> <div></div>	LEADING INDICATORS			EXCHANGE RATES		Hong Kong Dollar 7.7512		Russian Ruble 70.1050	
	DOW 27,005.84 +165.44 .62%	S&P 3,276.02 +18.72 .57%	NASDAQ 10,706.13 +25.76 .24%	Australian Dollar 1.3974	Indian Rupee 74.3703	Japanese Yen 107.1330	Singapore Dollar 1.3824	South Korean Won 1174.34	Swiss Franc 0.9278
				British Pound 0.7846	Malaysian Ringgit 4.2158	New Zealand Dollar 1.4953	Taiwan Dollar 28.9484	Thailand Baht 31.6140	
				Canadian Dollar 1.3389	Chinese Yuan 6.9030	Philippine Peso 48.5153			
				Euro 0.8629					

Nation

White House, GOP agree on virus testing in new aid bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republicans and the White House reached tentative agreement for more testing

funds in the next COVID-19 relief package, but deep disagreements over the scope of the \$1 trillion in federal aid

remain ahead of Thursday's expected roll out.

Facing a GOP revolt, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McCon-

nell was preparing a "handful" of separate COVID-19 aid bills, according to a top lawmaker involved in the negotiations. McConnell is set to unveil the package on Thursday, according to a Republican unauthorized to discuss the private talks and granted anonymity.

"Very productive meeting," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said while exiting a session late Wednesday at the Capitol.

A key holdup remains President Donald Trump's push for a payroll tax cut, according to a Republican granted anonymity to discuss the private talks. Hardly any GOP senators support the idea. Instead, McConnell and some Republicans prefer another round of direct \$1,200 cash payments to Americans.

Mnuchin said the negotiators have agreed to an amount on direct payments, but declined to share details.

The rest of the legislation is taking shape even as key Senate Republicans are rejecting the overall rescue, which is almost certain to grow. There will be no new money for cash-strapped states and cities,

which are clamoring for funds, but they will be provided with additional flexibility to tap existing aid funds.

Republicans propose giving \$105 billion to help schools reopen and \$15 billion for child care centers to create safe environments for youngsters during the pandemic.

The centerpiece of the GOP effort remains McConnell's liability shield to protect businesses, schools and others from COVID-related lawsuits. The bills will also include tax breaks for businesses to hire and retain workers, and to help shops and workplaces retool with new safety protocols.

Still unresolved is how to phase out the \$600 weekly unemployment benefit boost that is expiring, starting Friday. Republicans appear to be settling on \$200 a week that would ultimately be adjusted according to state jobless benefits rates.

The breakthrough on testing money, though, was key after days of debate between Republicans and the White House, showing a potential shift in the administration's thinking about the importance

of tracking the spread of the virus. Republicans wanted \$25 billion but the Trump administration said the \$9 billion in unspent funds from a previous aid deal was sufficient. The two sides settled on adding \$16 billion to the unspent funds to reach \$25 billion, senators said.

Despite deep differences among Republicans, McConnell is trying to push forward with what he calls a "starting point" in negotiations with Democrats.

"I think what the leader has decided he wants to do is to have a handful of bills now instead of just one bill, so maybe that comes together," Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., told reporters at the Capitol.

Exasperated Democrats warned the GOP infighting with Trump is delaying needed relief to Americans during the crisis, with the U.S. pandemic death toll climbing past 142,000.

With millions out of work and a potential wave of evictions ahead, the severity of the prolonged virus outbreak is testing Washington's ability to respond.

US ratchets up China tensions, closing Houston consulate

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States ordered China to close its consulate in Houston, escalating tensions between the world's largest economies as President Donald Trump ramps up punitive measures against China ahead of the November U.S. election. Beijing denounced the order Wednesday as "outrageous" and said it would draw a firm response if not reversed.

The physical closure of the consulate, one of China's six missions in the United States, marked a dramatic step in increasingly contentious relations that have been strained not only by the coronavirus pandemic but disputes over trade, human rights, Hong Kong and Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea.

Previous Trump administration measures against Chinese officials, students and researchers have included travel bans, registration requirements and other steps intended to reduce the coun-

try's footprint in the United States. The administration has also announced its outright rejection of virtually all Chinese maritime claims in the South China Sea.

These actions have come as Trump has sought to blame China for the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S., where cases have soared, threatening his prospects for reelection. Trump himself said more closures could be coming if China doesn't change its behavior. "It's always possible," he told reporters at the White House.

The State Department said it ordered the consulate closed within 72 hours after alleging that Chinese agents have tried to steal data from facilities in Texas, including the Texas A&M medical system statewide and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

There were indications consulate staff were preparing to leave: Papers were being burned on the consulate grounds late Tuesday night—

a common practice when a diplomatic post is being shuttered on short notice.

Cai Wei, the Chinese consul general, told KTRK-TV in Houston the order to shut down was "quite wrong" and "very damaging" to U.S.-China relations.

Asked about accusations of espionage and stealing data, Cai said, "You have to give some evidence, say something from the facts. ... Knowing Americans, you have the rule of law, you are not guilty until you are proved guilty."

State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortogus said in a statement that the closure was "to protect American intellectual property and Americans' private information."

"The United States will not tolerate (China's) violations of our sovereignty and intimidation of our people, just as we have not tolerated (China's) unfair trade practices, theft of American jobs, and other egregious behavior," she said.

Trump deploys more federal agents under 'law-and-order'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump announced Wednesday that he will send federal agents to Chicago and Albuquerque, New Mexico, to help combat rising crime, expanding the administration's intervention into local enforcement as he runs for reelection under a "law-and-order" mantle.

Using the same alarmist language he has employed to describe illegal immigration, Trump painted Democrat-led cities as out of control and lashed out at the "radical left," which he blamed for rising violence in some cities, even though criminal justice experts say it defies easy explanation.

"In recent weeks there has been a radical movement to defund, dismantle and dissolve our police department," Trump said at a White House event, blaming the movement for "a shocking explosion of shootings, killings, murders and heinous crimes of violence."

"This bloodshed must end," he said. "This bloodshed will end."

The decision to dispatch federal agents to American cities is playing out at a hyperpo-

litized moment when Trump is grasping for a new reelection strategy after the coronavirus upended the economy, dismantling what his campaign had seen as his ticket to a second term. With less than four months until Election Day, Trump has been warning that violence will worsen if his Democratic rival Joe Biden is elected in November and Democrats have a chance to make the police reforms they have endorsed after the killing of George Floyd and nationwide protests demanding racial justice.

Crime began surging in some cities like Chicago, New York and Philadelphia when stay-at-home orders lifted. Criminal justice experts seeking answers have pointed to the unprecedented moment: a pandemic that has killed over 140,000 Americans, historic unemployment, a mass reckoning over race and police brutality, intense stress and even the weather. Compared with other years, crime in 2020 is down overall.

The plan Trump announced Wednesday expands an existing program that sent hundreds of federal agents to

Kansas City, Missouri, after a 4-year-old boy's shooting death to help quell a record rise in violence. Sending federal agents to help localities is not uncommon; Attorney General William Barr announced a similar surge effort in December for seven cities with spiking violence. But this effort will include at least 100 Department of Homeland Security Investigations officers who generally conduct drug trafficking and child exploitation investigations, in addition to personnel under the Justice Department umbrella.

DHS officers have already been dispatched to Portland, Oregon, and other localities to protect federal property and monuments as Trump has lambasted efforts by protesters to knock down Confederate statues.

Local authorities there have complained that agents have exacerbated tensions on the streets, while residents have accused the government of violating their constitutional rights. Indeed, civil unrest escalated after federal agents were accused of whisking people away in unmarked cars without probable cause.



Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Thursday, Aug 6, 2020 | 5:00 PM
Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center Building
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp



AGENDA

- A. Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of 07/23/2020 Zoning Board Meeting minutes
 5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)
- B. Public Hearings:**
 - 1. Conditional Use Application #2020-1809:** Viray Enterprises, Inc. dba A's Car Air Conditioning Repair & Parts Sales proposes to occupy an existing building structure for Gas Station, Light Repair Use. This use is classified as "Gas Station, Light Repair Uses" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot E.A. 693-2 in China Town village. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
 - 2. Conditional Use Application #2020-1728:** Ha'num Lina'la Assembly proposes to occupy an existing building structure to operate a church. This use is classified as "Church or Place of Worship Uses" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot 022 B 44 in Tanapag village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
 - 3. Conditional Use Application #2020-1930:** Guangdong Development CO., Ltd. proposes to construct & operate a Block Plant manufacturing & processing facility. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing Uses" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot 047 I 12 and 047 I 07 in As Gonno village. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
 - 4. Conditional Use Application #2020-1942:** Huang Shun Corporation is proposing to occupy an existing building structure for Manufacturing & Processing. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing Uses" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot E.A. No. 121 "C" in Susupe village. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
 - 5. Conditional Use Application #2020-1912:** Fritz Pacific Building is proposing to renovate & occupy an existing building structure for its Office. This use is classified as "Office Uses" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use.
- C. Communication**
 1. Legal Opinion – Authority to File Applications
 2. Letter from Senator Sixto Igisomar – HLB 21-42 & Zoning Office Response
- D. Old Business**
 1. ITB 19-ZB-134 "Vehicle purchase for Enforcement & Operations"
 2. Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 Regulations
- E. Executive (Closed) Session**
- F. New Business**
 1. Zoning Administrator
 2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)
- G. Miscellaneous**
 1. Other Matters
 2. Announcements
 3. Next Meeting
- H. Adjournment**

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will also air this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications

Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492?pwd=Q0daYlNPMdXdlFQRTQ4UkhFRjVlUT09>
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492
Password: Aug6

This meeting will also be aired on the Office of the Governor's Facebook page.

Asia

China launches ambitious attempt to land ROVER ON MARS

AP
In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, a Long March-5 rocket carrying the Tianwen-1 Mars probe lifts off from the Wenchang Space Launch Center in southern China's Hainan Province, Thursday, July 23, 2020.

BEIJING (AP)—China launched its most ambitious Mars mission yet on Thursday in a bold attempt to join the United States in successfully landing a spacecraft on the red planet.

Tianwen-1 was launched on a Long March-5 carrier rocket from Hainan Island, a resort province off the south coast of the mainland, state media said.

Livestreams showed a successful liftoff, with rockets blazing orange and the spacecraft heading upward across clear blue skies. Hundreds of space enthusiasts cried out excitedly on a beach across the bay from the launch site.

It marked the second flight to Mars this week, after a United Arab Emirates orbiter blasted off on a rocket from Japan on Monday. And the

U.S. is aiming to launch Perseverance, its most sophisticated Mars rover ever, from Cape Canaveral, Florida, next week.

China's tandem spacecraft — with both an orbiter and a rover — will take seven months to reach Mars, like the others. If all goes well, Tianwen-1, or “quest for heavenly truth,” will look for underground water, if it's present, as well as evidence of possible ancient life.

This isn't China's first attempt at Mars. In 2011, a Chinese orbiter accompanying a Russian mission was lost when the spacecraft failed to get out of Earth's orbit after launching from Kazakhstan, eventually burning up in the atmosphere.

This time, China is going at it alone. It also is fast-tracking,

launching an orbiter and rover on the same mission instead of stringing them out.

China's secretive space program has developed rapidly in recent decades. Yang Liwei became the first Chinese astronaut in 2003, and last year, Chang'e-4 became the first spacecraft from any country to land on the far side of the moon.

Conquering Mars would put China in an elite club.

“There is a whole lot of prestige riding on this,” said Dean Cheng, an expert on Chinese aerospace programs at the Heritage Foundation in Washington.

Landing on Mars is notoriously difficult. Only the U.S. has successfully landed a spacecraft on Martian soil, doing it eight times since 1976.

tional society will not impede it in doing other things,” Wu said. “This is what we are extremely worried about.”

Wu stressed the need for coordination with allies such as Japan and the U.S., neither of which has official diplomatic ties with Taiwan but which maintain close relations. U.S. law mandates that Washington ensure the island can maintain a credible defense and treat all threats against the island as matters of grave concern.

Support among Taiwanese for political unification with China has long been weak and has fallen further following the crackdown in Hong Kong. That comes as Chinese Communist Party leader and President Xi Jinping pursues an increasingly assertive foreign policy, leading to speculation he may attempt a military confrontation in the region.

NASA's InSight and Curiosity rovers still operate today. Six other spacecraft are exploring Mars from orbit: three American, two European and one from India.

Unlike the two other Mars missions launching this month, China has tightly controlled information about the program — even withholding any name for its rover. National security concerns led the U.S. to curb cooperation between NASA and China's space program.

In an article published earlier this month in *Nature Astronomy*, mission chief engineer Wan Weixing said Tianwen-1 would slip into orbit around Mars in February and look for a landing site on Utopia Planitia — a plain where NASA has detected possible evidence of underground ice. Wan died in May from cancer.

The landing would then be attempted in April or May, according to the article. If all

goes well, the 240-kilogram (530-pound) golf cart-sized, solar-powered rover is expected to operate for about three months, and the orbiter for two years.

Though small compared to America's hulking, car-sized 1,025-kilogram (2,260-pound) Perseverance, it's almost twice as big as the two rovers China has sent to the moon in 2013 and 2019. Perseverance is expected to operate for at least two years.

This Mars-launching season — which occurs every 26 months when Earth and Mars are at their closest — is especially busy.

The UAE spacecraft Amal, or Hope, which will orbit Mars but not land, is the Arab world's first interplanetary mission. NASA's Perseverance rover is up next.

“At no other time in our history have we seen anything like what is unfolding with these three unique missions to

Mars. Each of them is a science and engineering marvel,” the Space Foundation's chief executive officer Thomas Zeligor said in an online panel discussion earlier this week.

China's road to Mars hit a few bumps: A Long March-5 rocket, nicknamed “Fat 5” because of its bulky shape, failed to launch earlier this year. The coronavirus pandemic forced scientists to work from home. In March, when instruments needed to be transported from Beijing to Shanghai, three team members drove 12 hours to deliver them.

While China is joining the U.S., Russia and Europe in creating a satellite-based global navigation system, experts say it isn't trying to overtake the U.S. lead in space exploration.

Instead, Cheng of the Heritage Foundation said China is in a “slow race” with Japan and India to establish itself as Asia's space power.

Taiwan says China sending planes near island almost daily

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—China is sending military planes near Taiwan with increasing frequency in what appears to be a stepping up of its threat to use force to take control of the island, Taiwan's foreign minister said Wednesday.

Such flights are more frequent than reported in the media and have become “virtually a daily occurrence,” Joseph Wu told reporters.

Along with Chinese military exercises simulating an attack on Taiwan, the flights by China are causing major concern for Taiwan's government, Wu said.

“What it is doing now is unceasingly preparing to use force to resolve the Taiwan problem,” Wu said.

China claims the self-ruling island democracy as its own territory and threatens to use the People's Liberation Army to bring it under its control.

The sides split in a civil war in 1949 when Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists fled to the former Japanese colony as the Communist Party took control in mainland China.

Beijing has cut ties with the island's government since Taiwan elected independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen in 2016 and has sought to isolate it diplomatically while raising the military threat. Despite that, Tsai was reelected this year by a wide margin.

Wu said China appeared to have grown in confidence following its crackdown on opposition voices in the former British colony of Hong Kong, facilitated by the national legislature's passage of a sweeping security law.

“If international society does not give China a sufficiently clear signal, I believe China will take it that interna-

N. Korea's Kim visits chicken farm, calls for improvements

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has inspected a new chicken farm being built in a county south of capital Pyongyang and called for improvements to what he described as an outdated poultry industry, state media said Thursday.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency didn't say exactly when Kim made the trip to the construction site in Hwangju. The report didn't mention any comments by Kim about U.S.-led international sanctions over his nuclear weapons program, which have increased pressure on the North's broken economy.

On Monday, the KCNA

said that Kim visited the construction site of a showpiece hospital in Pyongyang and berated officials over poor planning and budget management. His comments possibly indicated that the country is struggling to secure supplies amid sanctions and a coronavirus lockdown.

Kim appeared to be in a better mood at the chicken farm. The KCNA quoted Kim as saying that the facility, which will be producing “thousands of tons of delicious and quality meat and tens of millions of tasty and quality eggs every year,” will make “significant contributions to the dietary life” of his people.

He described the facility

as a model for modernizing chicken farms in the rest of the country, which he described as “backward” and mostly more than two decades old.

Kim desperately sought sanctions relief during a flurry of diplomacy with the United States in 2018 and 2019. But talks have faltered since his second summit with President Donald Trump in February 2019.

Experts say the COVID-19 crisis likely thwarted some of Kim's major economic goals by forcing the country into a lockdown that shut the border with China, its major ally and economic lifeline, and potentially hampered his ability to mobilize people for labor.

World

Virus slams Bolivia as hospitals say: ‘There is no space’

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—Police in Bolivia’s major cities have recovered the bodies of hundreds of suspected victims of the coronavirus from homes, vehicles and, in some

instances, the streets. Hospitals are full of COVID-19 patients and short of staff, keeping their gates closed and hanging out signs that say: “There is no space.”

UK to open citizenship path to Hong Kongers from January

LONDON (AP)—Britain’s government announced Wednesday that it will open a new special pathway to obtaining U.K. citizenship for up to 3 million eligible Hong Kongers as of January, taking another step toward solidifying a policy denounced by China.

In a statement, the Home Office said holders of the British National Overseas passport and their immediate family members can move to the U.K. to work and study. The change to immigration rules was introduced after Beijing imposed a new, sweeping national security law on Hong Kong.

“Today’s announcement shows the U.K. is keeping its word: We will not look the other way on Hong Kong, and we will not duck our historic responsibilities to its people,” British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said.

Britain announced in early July it was extending residency rights for some 2.9 million people eligible for the British National Overseas passport in Hong Kong, stressing that it would uphold its duty to the former British colony after the new law was imposed.

Eligible individuals from Hong Kong currently can come to the U.K. for six months without a visa. With the rule change, they will have the right to live and work in the country for five years. After that, they will be allowed to apply for settled status and then again for citizenship.

Those eligible can access the British job market at any skill level and without a salary threshold, but won’t have access to public funds.

The U.K. introduced a special, limited type of British nationality in the 1980s for people who were a “British dependent territories citizen by connection with Hong Kong.” The passports did not confer nationality or the automatic right to live and work in Britain, but entitled holders to consular assistance from U.K. diplomatic posts.

Britain handed over Hong Kong, its former colony, to Chinese rule on July 1, 1997 under a “One Country, Two Systems” framework that was supposed to guarantee the city a high degree of autonomy and Western-style civil liberties not seen on mainland China.

And the Bolivian government says the peak of the outbreak is not expected until August.

Desperation is growing in one of Latin America’s poorest countries, which seems overwhelmed by the virus even as it endures political turmoil stemming from a flawed election and the ouster of President Evo Morales last year. A plan to hold

elections in September, seen as a key to stabilizing its democracy, is increasingly in doubt as the pandemic worsens.

Some funeral homes have hired more staff to cope with the influx of the dead, and hearses at the main cemetery in the capital of La Paz line up daily to deliver bodies. With little space available, the mayor’s of-

fice only allows burials for people from the municipality and charges more than \$100 for cremation, a huge sum for most Bolivians. A private cremation service costs twice as much.

“My brother died of pneumonia and we cannot find a funeral home. We have to wait until tomorrow. Many people are going through the same thing and nobody helps us,”

said Herminia Carpio, sobbing as she waited to collect her brother’s body at the door of the largest public hospital in La Paz.

Some doctors are issuing falsified death certificates for virus victims, putting funeral home staff at risk, according to an undertaker in La Paz who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Hâ’num Lina’la Assembly

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Hâ’num Lina’la Assembly is proposing to occupy an existing building structure to operate a church. This use is classified as “Church or Place of Worship Uses” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot 022 B 44 in Tanapag village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: August 06, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, August 5, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Treasurer

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Viray Enterprises, Inc. dba A’s Car Air-conditioning Repair & Parts Sale

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Viray Enterprises, Inc. dba A’s Car Air-conditioning Repair & Parts Sale is proposing to occupy an existing building structure for Gas Station, Light Repair Use. This use is classified as “Gas Station, Light Repair Uses” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot E.A. 693-2 in China Town village. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: August 06, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, August 5, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Treasurer

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Fritz Pacific Building

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Fritz Pacific Building is proposing to renovate & occupy an existing building structure for its Office. This use is classified as “Office Uses” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot 003 H 03 in Susupe village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: August 06, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, August 5, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Treasurer

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Guangdong Development Co., Ltd.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Guangdong Development Co. Ltd. is proposing to construct & operate a Block Plant manufacturing & processing facility. This use is classified as “Manufacturing & Processing Uses” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot 047 I 12 and 047 I 07 in As Gonno village. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: August 06, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, August 5, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Treasurer

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Huang Shun Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Huang Shun Corporation is proposing to occupy an existing building structure for Manufacturing & Processing. This use is classified as “Manufacturing & Processing Uses” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot E.A. No. 121 "C" in Susupe village. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: August 06, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, August 5, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Treasurer

Science & Technology

UAE's Amal spacecraft rockets toward Mars in Arab world 1st

TOKYO (AP)—A United Arab Emirates spacecraft rocketed into blue skies from a Japanese launch center Monday at the start of a seven-month journey to Mars on the Arab world's first interplanetary mission.

The liftoff of the Mars orbiter named Amal, or Hope, starts a rush to fly to Earth's neighbor that is scheduled to be followed in the next few days by China and the United States.

At the space center in Dubai, people watching were transfixed by the liftoff, then cheered and clapped, with one woman with offering a celebratory cry common for weddings.

Amal blasted off from the Tanegashima Space Center aboard a Mitsubishi Heavy Industries' H-IIA rocket on time at 6:58 a.m. (2158 GMT Sunday) after being delayed five days by bad weather.

Mitsubishi later said the probe successfully separated from the rocket and was now on its solo journey to Mars.

The probe was sending signals that would be analyzed later but everything appeared

good for now, Omran Sharaf, the UAE Mars mission director told journalists in Dubai about an hour and a half after liftoff.

Amal is set to reach Mars in February 2021, the year the UAE celebrates 50 years since the country's formation. In September that year, Amal will start transmitting Martian atmospheric data, which will be made available to the international scientific community, Sharaf said.

"The UAE is now a member of the club and we will learn more and we will engage more and we'll continue developing our space exploration program," UAE Space Agency chief Mohammed Al Ahbabi told a joint online news conference from Tanegashima.

At Mohammed bin Rashid Space Center in Dubai, Emirati men in their traditional white kandora robes and women in their black abayas watched the liftoff. As its stages separated, a cheer went out from men seated on the floor. They began clapping, one using his face mask, worn due to the coronavirus pandemic, to wipe away a tear.

"It was great to see everything going according to schedule today. It looks like things are all on track. It's a huge step in terms of space exploration to have a nation like the UAE taking that giant leap to send a spacecraft to Mars," said Fred Watson, Australia's astronomer-at-large. "Being on route to a planet like Mars is an exceptional achievement."

A newcomer in space development, the UAE has successfully put three Earth observation satellites into orbit. Two were developed by South Korea and launched by Russia, and a third—its own—was launched by Japan.

A successful mission to Mars would be a major step for the oil-dependent economy seeking a future in space, coming less than a year after the launch of the first UAE astronaut, Hazzaa Ali Almansoori. He spent over a week at the International Space Station last fall.

The UAE has set a goal to build a human colony on Mars by 2117.

"It sends a very strong message to the Arab youth that if

the UAE is able to reach Mars in less than 50 years, they could do much more," Sharaf told The Associated Press on Sunday as his colleagues prepared for the launch.

The Emiratis also acknowledged it represented a step forward for the Arab world, the home of mathematicians and scientists for centuries before the wars and chaos that have gripped wide swathes of it in recent times.

"So the region has been going through tough times in the past decades, if not centuries," Sharaf said. "Now we have the case of the UAE, a country that's moving forward with its plans, looking at the future and the future of region also."

For its first Mars mission, the UAE chose partners instead of doing it all on its own.

"Developing a spacecraft is not easy even if there is ample funding," said Junya Terazono, an astronomer at Aizu University.

Emirati scientists worked with researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder, University of California, Berkeley, and Arizona State University. The spacecraft was assembled at Boulder and transported to Japan as the two countries looked to expand their ties with the rich and politically stable Middle Eastern nation.

The Amal spacecraft, along with its launch, cost \$200 million, according to Sharaf. Operation costs at Mars have yet to be divulged.

Amal, about the size of a small car, carries three instruments to study the upper atmosphere and monitor climate change while circling the red planet for at least two years. It is set to follow up on NASA's Maven orbiter sent to Mars in 2014 to study how the planet went from a warm, wet world that may have harbored microbial life during its first billion years, to the

cold, barren place of today. Hope also plans to send back images of weather changes.

Japan has long collaborated with the U.S. and other partners in defense and space technology, and the resource-poor country has traditionally kept friendly ties with Middle Eastern countries. Japan's launch services are known for accuracy and an on-time record, but the providers are working to cut costs to be more internationally competitive.

Two other Mars missions are planned in coming days. China aims to explore the Martian surface with an orbiter and rover and to search for water and ice with a launch expected around Thursday. The U.S. plans to send a rover named Perseverance to search for signs of ancient life and collect rock and soil samples for return to Earth. Liftoff is targeted for July 30.

Fixing a PC slowed down by security software

I'm often asked what security software to use. I don't make buying recommendations for commercial products, but I can give general advice—including which software to avoid.

Julie Arnsdorf of Plymouth, Minn., said her 1-year-old PC had become sluggish after installing McAfee Endpoint Security program, which was provided by her internet service provider, CenturyLink.

"My normally fast computer was terribly slow," Arnsdorf wrote. "YouTube videos constantly buffered (stopped while downloading more data) after a few seconds. Facebook posts, comments and videos were slow to load, if they ever did. Websites were slow to load, too. I removed McAfee and reinstalled it, but it had virtually no effect. I felt like I was on a dial-up connection."

While reviewers have praised McAfee Endpoint Security for its protective features, many said it can overwhelm a PC by using too much processor time and accessing the hard disk too often. The overworked PC then dramatically slows down.

I suggested Arnsdorf get another brand of security software and uninstall the McAfee program. (Never run two always-on PC security programs at the same time because that also slows a PC.) That raised the question of what she should replace it with.

There's little correlation between how much you spend

TECH Q&A

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

for security software and how safe you are. It's more a matter of what makes you feel safe, and how risky your computer behavior is.

If you visit potentially dangerous websites, such as illegal video downloading sites, sites that offer bargains or free products, or sexually explicit sites, buying the latest security software makes sense. The same goes for people who frequently visit several social media sites, which are often the target of hackers. (For lists of highly rated, for-pay security programs, see tinyurl.com/ydant2vk or tinyurl.com/yckal764).

But if you mainly visit well-known commercial websites and use social media sparingly, you can probably rely on Microsoft's free security software: the Microsoft Defender antivirus and firewall program included in Windows 10.

Q: I've been using the Windows 10 Edge browser, but I heard there's a new version of Edge. What are the differences between the versions?

A: Microsoft's new Edge

browser is a lot like the Google Chrome browser (it's built on the same free, open-source software code.)

And it's better than its predecessor.

The original Edge browser was slow, couldn't be customized the way Chrome could and worked only with Windows 10. As a result, Edge was used on about 3.5% of desktop computers; Chrome was used on about 69.5% (see tinyurl.com/ry7fbl4).

Because the new Edge browser mimics Chrome, it's faster and can use the thousands of Chrome "extensions," which are add-on programs that customize the browser. (Chrome extensions range from Honey, which finds coupons for online shoppers, to Dalton, which makes websites more readable for people who are colorblind.) And the new Edge is available for Windows PCs, Macs and Apple and Android phones. You can download the new Edge browser (see tinyurl.com/v7rutyh) or wait for Microsoft to update your copy of Windows 10.

Science Matters

Ancient coal fires and 'Great Dying'

Burning coal deposits heated the atmosphere 250 million years ago — a major disaster at the time of the Permian Extinction, the worst biological catastrophe in Earth's history.



Land formed the ancient supercontinent of Pangaea

Siberian Traps erupted, burned



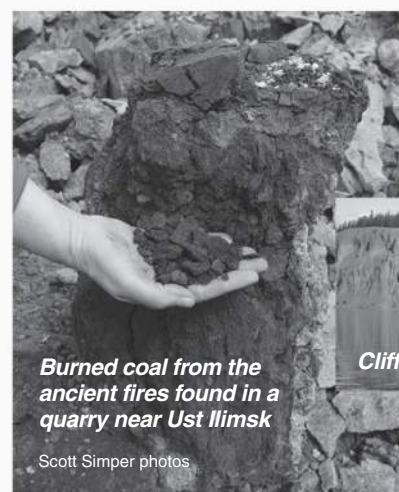
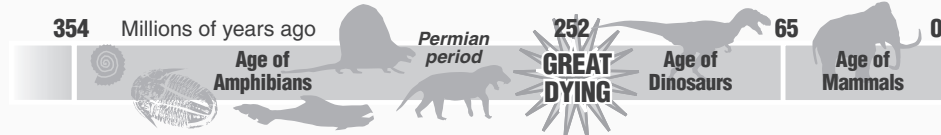
4 After millions of years, ecosystems rebuilt and species recovered

1 Massive eruptions began in vast volcanic region in Siberia, the Traps (Swedish for steps); continued for 2 million years

2 Magma and lava burned plants and ancient, buried coal deposits in the Traps

3 Earth underwent lethal global warming; ocean temperatures exceeded 42°C (104° F) — as hot as a spa hot tub

The Permian Extinction wiped out 96% of all ocean species 70% of land-living vertebrate species



Burned coal from the ancient fires found in a quarry near Ust Ilmsk

Scott Simper photos

Finding the burned evidence

The hypothesis of volcanic fires in the Traps has long been considered, but evidence was scarce

Researchers had found microscopic remains of burnt coal on a Canadian arctic island

Then new searches along Siberia's rivers found burnt wood and coal among the volcanic rock "prisms" there — major evidence that the coal fire-global warming theory is correct

Source: Lindy Elkins-Tanton of Arizona State University; Steve Grasby of Geological Survey of Canada; Geology (journal); National Geographic Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service © 2020 TNS

Off The Wall

Man faked death to avoid jail but typo gave him away

NEW YORK (AP)—A Long Island criminal defendant tried faking his death to avoid a jail sentence, but the phony death certificate his lawyer submitted had a glaring spelling error.

Dog makes 50-mile trek to old home

LAWSON, Mo. (AP)—A dog named Cleo who disappeared from her home in Kansas earlier this month turned up a few days later at her old home in Missouri, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) away.

Colton Michael told television station KMBC that the 4-year-old Labrador retriever-border collie mix showed up on the front porch of his family's home in Lawson, which is about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northeast of Kansas City.

At first, she wouldn't let anyone get near her, said Michael, who has lived in the home for nearly two years.

"She finds her way home, and there's some strangers liv-

ror that made it a dead giveaway for a fraud, prosecutors said Tuesday.

Robert Berger, 25, of Huntington, New York, now faces up to four years in prison

ing in it. That would be scary for anybody," he said.

Eventually, he was able to gain Cleo's trust and to get her checked for a microchip, which showed that she belonged to the former owners of his house.

Cleo's owners, who had moved to Olathe, Kansas, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southwest of Lawson, couldn't believe it when Michael called and said the dog had turned up at their old home. They had posted on Facebook a week earlier about the missing dog. Neither family knows how Cleo made the trip, which would have required her to cross at least one river.

if convicted in the alleged scheme. That's in addition to pending sentences for earlier guilty pleas to charges of possession of a stolen Lexus and attempted grand larceny of a truck—punishment prosecutors say he was looking to avoid.

"It will never cease to amaze me the lengths some people will go to to avoid being held accountable on criminal charges," Nassau County

District Attorney Madeline Singas said in a telephone interview.

Arraigned by video Tuesday because of the coronavirus pandemic, Berger pleaded not guilty to a single count of offering a false instrument for filing. A judge set bail at \$1 but ordered Berger back to jail because of his underlying cases. His next court date is scheduled for July 29.

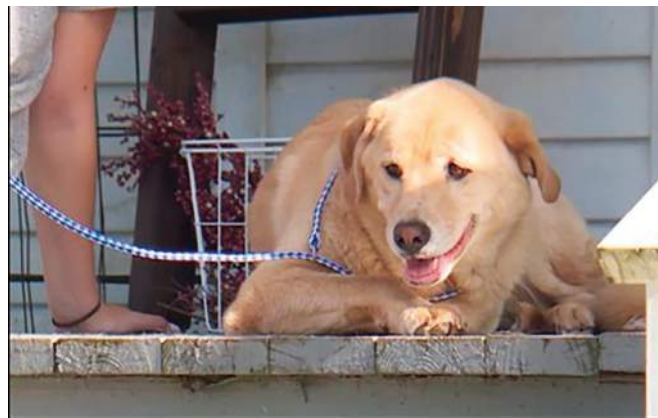
A message seeking com-

ment was left with a public defender who took over Berger's case after the lawyer who submitted the suspicious death certificate claimed he'd been used as a pawn and had nothing to do with the alleged shenanigans.

Scheduled to be sentenced to a year in jail last October on the theft-related charges, Berger fled the state, while taking steps to convince his then-lawyer, prosecutors and

the judge that he had killed himself—including allegedly using his fiancée to pass along a bogus death certificate, prosecutors said.

At first glance, Berger's purported death certificate looked like an official document issued by the New Jersey Department of Health, Vital Statistics and Registry, but there was one big problem: Registry was spelled "Regsitry," prosecutors said. There were also inconsistencies in the font type and size that raised suspicions, they said.



This video frame grab provided by KMBC-TV in Kansas City, Mo., shows Cleo, a 4-year-old Labrador retriever-border collie mix who disappeared from her home in Kansas earlier in July 2020, and turned up a few days later at her old home in Missouri, about 50 miles away.

KMBC-TV VIA AP

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

US Marshals: 'Fugitive of week' found asleep on porch

LACONIA, N.H. (AP)—A "fugitive of the week" sought by the U.S. Marshals Service was found sleeping on a porch in New Hampshire, authorities said Wednesday. John Cathcart, 55, was sought on multiple arrest warrants issued from Belknap County, Deputy U.S. Marshal Jeffrey White said in a news release. The warrants included failing to appear on a charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm and failing to appear on three outstanding narcotics charges. Cathcart was in a segment Wednesday featured in local media and distributed to law enforcement officers statewide. Authorities said interviews led them to a porch in Laconia, where they found Cathcart. He was arrested without incident. It wasn't immediately known if he had a lawyer who could speak on his behalf.

Vermont State Police recover, return shotgun stolen in 1994

SWANTON, Vt. (AP)—Vermont State Police troopers have returned to its rightful owner a shotgun stolen during a burglary in 1994 in the town of Albany. Police say they learned Monday that a shotgun found to be in possession of a Swanton resident had been stolen during the burglary 26 years ago. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the resident was not involved in the burglary and had only recently taken possession of the gun. The firearm, a Remington Shotgun, was returned to the owner on Thursday. Also stolen in the original burglary were a television and video-cassette recorder, a second shotgun, a handgun and some baseball and football cards. The investigation into the original burglary is continuing.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE †Juan Toves King

Lovingly known as "John"

Born to Life on March 26, 1968 and Called to Eternal Life on July 6, 2020

In his new life, he is reunited with his:

Father: †Jose Borja King

Father-in-Law: †Henry Carl Villagomez Hofschneider

Sister: †Victoria King Mendiola

Sister-in-Law: †Rosita Manglona Hofschneider

Brothers-in-Law: †David Masga Mendiola, †Edward Sablan Sanchez, †Marcelino P. Biz, Sr. †Edward San Nicolas Borja, †Rembert Manglona Hofschneider

Niece: †Reyisa King Aldan

His memory will forever live on with his loving:

Wife: Annie Marie Hofschneider King

Children and Grandchildren:

Tianna Lynn Hofschneider and Roland Barcinas San Nicolas - Endymion Roland, Alana Jamie

Melanie Mae Hofschneider and Samuel Pomaikai Keokina Moses

John Henry Hofschneider King

Janeen Magdalen Hofschneider King and Develle Palacios Maui - Dayton John, Deveney

Mother and Stepfather: Martha Villagomez and Oscar M. Bantolino

Mother-in-Law: Magdalena Manglona Hofschneider

Brothers and Sisters:

Juan Manalo & Lourdes Atalig & Family

Theodosia King Sanchez and Eugenio Lizama Villagomez & Family

Sabina King & Ramon Palacios Aldan & Family

Vincent Toves & Josephine Calimlim King & Family

†Victoria King & †David Masga Mendiola & Family

Jose Toves & Leticia Palacios King & Family

Celina Toves King and Gary Palacios Aldan & Family

Henry Toves. & Jackie Villagomez King & Family

Juanita King & Joseph Troutman & Family

Sylvia King Biz & Family

Rosita King & Mayor Edwin Palacios Aldan & Family

Brian Toves & Carla Dela Cruz King & Family

Brothers- and Sisters-in-Law:

Edwin Manglona & Vivian Villavicencio Hofschneider & Family

Esther Hofschneider & Jeffrey Lynn Barr

Jeffrey Manglona Hofschneider & Family

Arthur Manglona Hofschneider and Leona Cing Tudela & Family

Jeanette Hofschneider & Joaquin Hoashi Borja & Family

Arlene Hofschneider & Jose Mendiola Pangelinan & Family

Donna Hofschneider & Ronnie Quitano & Family

Henry Carl Manglona & Currine Cepeda Hofschneider & Family

Donald Manglona Hofschneider

The late †Juan Toves King will also be missed by numerous relatives and friends.

Mass is being offered daily at the San Jose Church on Tinian from July 7 to July 15, 2020. The mass schedule is as follows: 6:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, and 6:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

The body of the late †Juan Toves King will be arriving on Saipan on Saturday, July 25, 2020. A viewing will be held for the late †Juan Toves King at Borja's Funeral Home from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 30, 2020.

The late †Juan Toves King will arrive on Tinian on Thursday, at 11:30 a.m., and will be brought to the Tinian Health Center Morgue. Rosary will immediately follow.

On Saturday, August 1, 2020, the late †Juan Toves King will be brought to his family residence at 7:30 a.m., for the Holy Rosary and for viewing. At 10:00 a.m., the late †Juan Toves King will depart to San Jose Church for the responso. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m., and interment services will immediately follow at San Jose Public Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You from Annie, children & spouses, and grandchildren.



Life & Style

Amber Heard accuses Depp of throwing bottles like 'grenades'

LONDON (AP)—Amber Heard alleged in a British court on Wednesday that ex-husband Johnny Depp threw “30 or so bottles” at her as if they were “grenades or bombs” during a drunken and frenzied assault in Australia in March 2015 that also saw him accidentally sever part of his finger.

Taking the witness box for a third day at the High Court in London during Depp’s libel case against a British tabloid, the actress refuted his allegation that it was she who lost her temper and that she had injured him.

Heard has described her stay in Australia with Depp as akin to a “three-day hostage situation,” during which Depp

was “completely out of his mind and out of control” following a binge on drugs and alcohol. Heard has said that she feared for her life while at the rented property on Australia’s Gold Coast during a visit while Depp was filming the latest “Pirates of the Caribbean” film.

The incident is central to The Sun’s labeling of Depp in an April 2018 article as a “wife-beater.” The Sun’s defense relies on 14 allegations made by Heard of violence by Depp between 2013 and 2016, in settings as varied as the rented house in Australia, his private island in the Bahamas and a private jet.

Depp, 57, denies abusing

Heard and claims she was the aggressor during their tempestuous relationship. He was present once again to hear Heard’s testimony. He is suing The Sun’s publisher, News Group Newspapers, and its executive editor, Dan Wootton, over the article.

Depp’s lawyer, Eleanor Laws, said Heard had worked herself “into a rage” during her stay in Australia and that she had a habit of just “losing it.”

Heard, 34, said she got “angry at times but not into a rage that would cause me to throw anything at him.”

She acknowledged that she broke one bottle during their second evening together in Australia, testifying that it

happened as they argued about the scale of Depp’s drinking.

“I regret I did that,” said Heard, who also claimed that Depp often credited her for saving him by trying to get him clean and sober.

After she smashed the bottle, Heard alleges that Depp, fueled by alcohol and drugs, started throwing bottles, full enough that they broke a window behind her.

“He started picking them up one by one and throwing them like grenades or bombs,” she said. “One after the other after the other, in my direction, and I felt glass breaking behind me.”

She said he threw all the bottles that were within reach, bar one “celebratory magnum-

sized bottle of wine.”

“I would be shocked if Johnny remembers any of this himself, but I was there,” Heard said.

Heard also denied severing the tip of Depp’s finger during the alleged bottle-throwing or putting out a cigarette on his cheek during the incident. She said it was something that Depp used to do to himself.

“I was standing right in front of him,” Heard said. “It was deliberate.”

Heard said Depp “screamed” at her while stubbing the cigarette on his cheek that he couldn’t feel the pain. She testified that Depp was high on cocaine and MDMA at the time, as well as drunk.

Depp’s lawyer, Laws, also accused Heard of lying about an alleged incident of domestic violence in Los Angeles in December 2015, which Heard has described in written tes-

timony as “one of the worst and most violent nights” of the couple’s relationship.

In her testimony, Heard alleged that Depp slapped her and pulled out clumps of her hair while dragging her through their apartment, then repeatedly punched her in the head.

Laws said medical notes made by a nurse, Erin Boerum, who saw Heard shortly after the alleged incident, didn’t note any bruises, just bleeding on her lip. The lawyer suggested the bleeding resulted from Heard biting her lip.

“Of course not,” Heard responded. “I had two black eyes, a broken nose, a broken rib I had bruises all over my body.”

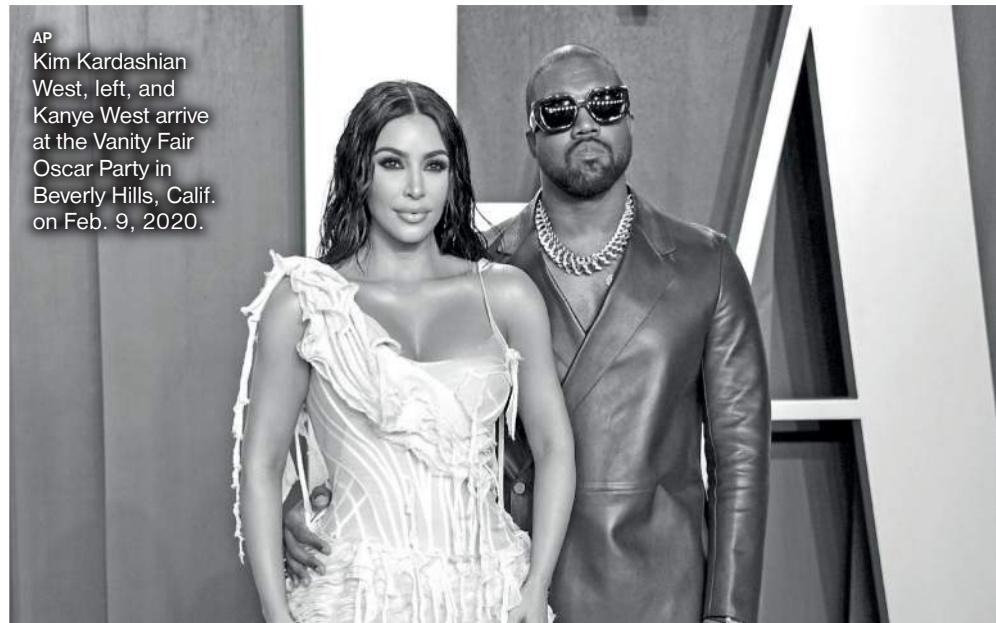
Depp’s lawyer also played a short clip of Heard’s appearance on James Corden’s “The Late Late Show” the day after the alleged 2015 incident. Laws said the footage showed no injuries on Heard.

Kim K asks public to show compassion, empathy to Kanye West

NEW YORK (AP)—Kim Kardashian West is asking the public to show compassion and empathy to husband Kanye West, who caused a stir this week after fulminating in a series of social media posts. She says he is bipolar.

The reality TV star and beauty mogul posted a lengthy message Wednesday on her Instagram Live feed, explaining that life has been complicated for her family and West, who ranted against historical figure Harriet Tubman and discussed abortion on Sunday while he declared himself a presidential candidate. His comments earned him backlash.

“As many of you know, Kanye has bi-polar disorder. Anyone who has this or has a loved one in their life who does, knows how incredibly complicated and painful it is to understand. I’ve never spoken publicly about how this has affected us at home because I am very protective of our children and Kanye’s right to privacy when it comes to his health. But today, I feel like I should com-



AP
Kim Kardashian West, left, and Kanye West arrive at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Feb. 9, 2020.

ment on it because of the stigma and misconceptions about mental health,” she wrote.

“I understand Kanye is subject to criticism because he is a public figure and his actions at times can cause strong opinions and emotions. He is a brilliant but complicated person who on top of the pressures of being an artist and a black man, who experienced

the painful loss of his mother, and has to deal with the pressure and isolation that is heightened by his bi-polar disorder,” Kardashian West continued. “Those who are close with Kanye know his heart and understand his words some times do not align with his intentions.”

On Tuesday, in a series of since-deleted Twitter posts,

West wrote that he’s been considering divorcing his wife. In another post he called out Kardashian matriarch Kris Jenner. On Monday, he claimed his wife tried to lock him up. And on Sunday at his political rally, the 21-time Grammy winner became tearful while talking about his mother, who died following plastic surgery complications in 2007.

Clint Eastwood sues CBD sellers over use of his name, image

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Clint Eastwood sued several companies that sell CBD supplements on Wednesday, alleging that they are falsely using his name and image to push products he would never agree to endorse.

Two lawsuits filed in federal court in Los Angeles include allegations that companies have spread phony articles reporting that the 90-year-old actor-director is quitting the movie business to focus on a CBD business.

The lawsuits say Eastwood has no part in the manufacture, sale or promotion of CBD, a chemical derived from marijuana often sold as a dietary

supplement or included in creams and ointments.

In the suits that seek millions in damages, Eastwood names as defendants nearly 20 small companies, based in states including Arizona, California, Delaware and Florida, that sell CBD, along with up to 60 anonymous entities that may be named later.

One of the companies, Sera Labs, said in a statement that it “worked for a limited time with a publisher and gave them specific advertisements they could use which follow our very strict guidelines and

shut down the ads immediately after learning that they used Eastwood’s name and likeness.”

The company said its guidelines prohibit using such false claims in its ads and has severed all relationships with the advertiser, and it urged others in the industry to do the same.

Other companies named in the suit, including Patriot Supreme and Norok Innovation Inc., did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

The suit says phony news articles on Eastwood and his sup-

posed championing and selling of CBD have been spread via email and social media.

The headline on one such story reads: “Big Pharma In Outrage Over Clint Eastwood’s CBD ... He Fires Back With This!”

Another headline says, “Breaking News: Clint Eastwood Exposes Shocking Secret Today.” The story includes links to purchase what it claims are Eastwood’s CBD products and quotes from a fabricated interview where Eastwood says he has moved on from the film business. That article also includes fake testimonials about the products from several celebrities, the suit says.

Tucker Carlson battles with The New York Times over privacy

NEW YORK

(AP)—Tucker Carlson says The New York Times wants to put his family in danger, the newspaper says he knowingly lied and now the Fox News host’s fans



Carlson

are taking up the fight.

The latest media conflagration flaring Tuesday is more than ideological, with issues of personal privacy and safety at its heart.

Carlson, the prime-time host who has just returned from a vacation after his top writer quit for publishing racist material online, said Monday on Fox News Channel that the Times was working on a story about where he and his family live. He said there’s “no conceivable justification” journalistically for such a story.

“Why is The New York Times doing a story on the location of my family’s home?” he asked. “Well, you know why. To hurt us. To injure my wife and kids so I will shut up and stop disagreeing with them. They believe in force.”

In response, the Times said that while it doesn’t confirm what it might or might not publish, it “does not plan to expose any residence of Tucker Carlson’s, which Carlson was aware of before his broadcast.”

Fox News had no com-

ment on the issue Tuesday.

Carlson, a polarizing political commentator, has reasons for concern about the issue. In 2018, a group of about 20 demonstrators came to his

home in Washington, D.C. one night, pounding on and damaging his front door while his wife was home alone.

She called police while hiding in a closet, he said.

Protesters returned another time, and sent threatening messages, he said. He eventually sold the house and moved his family.

“We tried to ignore it,” he said. “It felt cowardly to sell our house and leave. We’d raised our kids in the neighborhood and loved it. But in the end, that’s what we did. We have four children. It just wasn’t worth it.”

Carlson now has homes on Florida’s Gulf Coast and in western Maine, according to published reports.

He told the Sun Journal newspaper in Lewiston, Maine, for a story published Tuesday that he now lives in Maine for much of the year. Reportedly, he has taped many of his shows from a library near his home and is renovating a former town garage for use as a broadcast studio.

New Orleans musician offers kids trumpets for guns

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A New Orleans trumpeter, vocalist and bandleader is offering kids trumpets in exchange for guns.

Shamarr Allen started the project last week, after a 9-year-old boy was shot and killed and two teens wounded, news agencies reported.

"I have a 9-year-old son and I grew up in that environment so I understand what those kids are going through. They



aren't bad kids, they just don't have anything to do," Allen

told WVUE-TV.

So—after checking with

police to make sure that he wouldn't get any kids in trou-

^{AP}
In this Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2009, file photo, musician Shamarr Allen plays his trumpet, signed by New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees, on the porch of his Ninth Ward home in New Orleans, where he recently recorded "Glory Bound," an anthem for the Saints football team.

ble and would be able to give police the guns for safe disposal—he posted a note on his Instagram account: "To all the youth in New Orleans, Bring me a gun and I'll give you a trumpet no questions asked."

Allen told WWL-TV that his life changed when he was 12 or 13 and first played for tips in the French Quarter.

"I realized, 'OK, I can do this,'" he recounted. "Now, I'm traveling the world, this is my

career because of that trumpet. So if it can do that for me, it can do that for someone else."

He quickly ran through trumpets he owned but wasn't using. Other people offered to help. Then he started an online fundraiser with a \$6,500 goal. By Tuesday afternoon—four days in—he'd raised \$8,800 for trumpets costing about \$250 plus instruction books. He's also raising money by selling T-shirts with the slogan "Trumpet is my weapon," WWL-TV reported.

Several musicians have agreed to offer free virtual lessons to kids who get the trumpets, he said.

"You pick out the trumpet you want because it's always a bunch of different ones," Allen, who also is getting donated instruments, told WDSU-TV.

Britain's Prince Philip, 99, makes rare public appearance

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Prince Philip has made a rare public appearance as he attended a military ceremony at Windsor Castle to transfer a long-held ceremonial role to his daughter-in-law Camilla.

The 99-year-old Philip, Queen Elizabeth II's husband, has been Colonel-in-Chief of The Rifles since 2007 and has served in the same role for earlier regiments that have made up the infantry unit since the 1950s.

On Wednesday, Camilla, Prince Charles' wife, was welcomed as the regiment's new colonel-in-chief in a separate ceremony.

Philip retired from public duties in 2017. He was pictured at Windsor Castle with the queen to mark his birthday in June, and he attended Princess Beatrice's private wedding ceremony on Friday.

He was last seen at a big event when he was a guest at Lady Gabriella Windsor's wedding in May 2019.

Going in the water again: 'Jaws' boat clone supports sharks

By **PATRICK WHITTLE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Orca is headed back to the waters of New England, but this time, its mission isn't to hunt sharks. It's to help save them.

A group of ocean advocates and movie buffs is turning an old lobster fishing vessel into a replica of the Orca, the boat captained by the grizzled shark hunter Quint in "Jaws." The work is taking place on Martha's Vineyard, where Steven Spielberg shot the blockbuster movie in the 1970s.

The occasion doesn't call for a bigger boat so much as one with a different purpose, said Vineyard native David Bigelow, who acquired the craft and is heading up the project. When finished, he



said, Orca III will be used as an educational tool to help the public understand sharks and as a research vessel for scientists.

The project is dear to the heart of Bigelow, who ap-

peared as an extra in "Jaws." His drama teacher Lee Fierro, who died in April, also played the mother of a shark attack victim in the film. Reports of shark sightings on some New England beaches in recent

years moved Bigelow to take on the project.

"The need to educate people about the new ecosystem we're living in, because of climate change and the seal population, is probably our

^{AP}
This July 20, 2020 photo provided by David Bigelow in Vineyard Haven, Mass. shows part of a boat that is being retrofitted to replicate the boat from the movie Jaws.

only defense," Bigelow said, sighting two possible drivers of increased shark sightings. "We have basically taken on this role where the boat is going to be used for education."

Bigelow said that he believes the retrofitting work can be completed by this fall and that the boat can start helping people study sharks by next spring. The boat will be called Orca III because there were actually two vessels in "Jaws"—Orca and Orca II. Orca is seen in much of the film, and Orca II was a prop vessel.

Wife tries to coax opinions from man aiming to please

DEAR ABBY: This may seem strange, but my husband is too nice. His late mother, a domineering woman who always got her way, trained him not to have an opinion. Almost everything he says is crafted to be neutral so that nobody can possibly take issue with him.

If I ask, "What do you want for dinner?" his reply is, "Whatever you want." If I ask, "What make of car should we buy?" his reply is, "What kind would you like?" When I give him several choices, he tries to guess what I would prefer. He is a wonderful, kind, sweet man who will do anything for me.

We both have professional degrees and are in our early 30s. He lived with his parents through college. I have been on my own longer than he. I've told him I'm not like his mother was, and it's safe for him to express his opinions. After two years of marriage, although I continue to solicit his opinion, not much has changed.

Abby, I am tired of being in charge of everything. I'm afraid I'll become like his mother and just do what I want because consulting him is a waste of time, and hearing another "whatever" answer irritates me. I feel like I'm raising a very obedient child. I wanted an equal partner in marriage. How should I handle this?

WIFE, NOT MOTHER

DEAR WIFE: I am guessing you have had more than one conversation with your husband about this. There is a

saying, "Give me a child 'til the age of 7, and he's mine for life," which references indoctrination. Your late mother-in-law had her son under her roof for about 25 years, so his personality traits are pretty well cemented in. You might have better luck if you start phrasing your questions differently. ("Do you want chicken or fish tonight?" "Do you want to decide or should I punch you in the nose?") But if that doesn't work, you may have to accept the man you married just the way his mother made him.

DEAR ABBY: I am currently living with my fiancée, "Josie." That we are a same-sex couple was hard for our families to come to terms with. (Mainly Josie's mother.)

We are now planning a small courthouse wedding with a family dinner to follow a week later. We have made this clear to family and close friends, and nobody has taken issue with it. However, Josie's mother thinks it "isn't right" that we are inviting only parents to the ceremony and not siblings (Josie has one; I have three). She also called Josie crying because Josie and I went dress shopping on our own (spontaneously).

My mother is perfectly happy with all of our decisions and supportive with whatever we decide. How can we get my fiancée's mother to be more supportive?

WEDDING DRAMA IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR WEDDING DRAMA: It might be helpful to recognize that while your family is more accepting, Josie's

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



mother appears to be struggling on a couple of fronts. As many mothers do, she may have fantasized about a church wedding, helping her daughter select her bridal gown, and having a son-in-law. In a sense, she is grieving the death of her fantasy. Frankly, I feel sorry for the woman. With time, I am sure she will become more accepting and supportive.

You and Josie are about to embark on your lives together. Let your happiness be the beacon that guides her mother to acceptance, although it may not happen as quickly as you would wish.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Bol Bol in bubble as pandemic games begin



FLORIDA—The games don't count yet. But basketball fans are hungry.

Bol Bol satisfied on Wednesday, putting on a show in his NBA bubble debut with the Denver Nuggets.

The 7-foot-2 rookie and son of NBA icon Manute Bol dropped 16 points, 10 rebounds and six blocks in an 89-82 win over the Washington Wizards. He hit 3-pointers, ran the floor and showed athleticism and handles his late father couldn't have dreamed of during his 10-year NBA run as a 7-7 shot-blocking specialist.

Bol hasn't play a single regular-season NBA minute yet, but got plenty of run on Wednesday.

Bol turned heads early, blocking a shot, grabbing the rebound and running a one-man fast break that ended with a pull-up 3-pointer from the wing midway through the first quarter.

It wasn't his only 3-pointer of the afternoon. Bol took a pass in a half-court set in the third quarter and calmly sunk an in-rhythm 3-pointer from the corner.

He also flashed a Euro step in transition. He missed the ensuing layup in traffic. But

no matter. He's 7-2. He rebounded his own miss and slammed it home.

The short-handed Denver Nuggets went with a tall starting lineup in their exhibition opener against Washington.

Really, really tall.

The breakdown: 7-foot Nikola Jokic at point guard, 6-8 Jerami Grant at shooting guard, Bol Bol at strong forward, 6-7 Paul Millsap at power forward and 6-11 Mason Plumlee in the middle.

"Might have been the biggest lineup in NBA history," coach Michael Malone said.

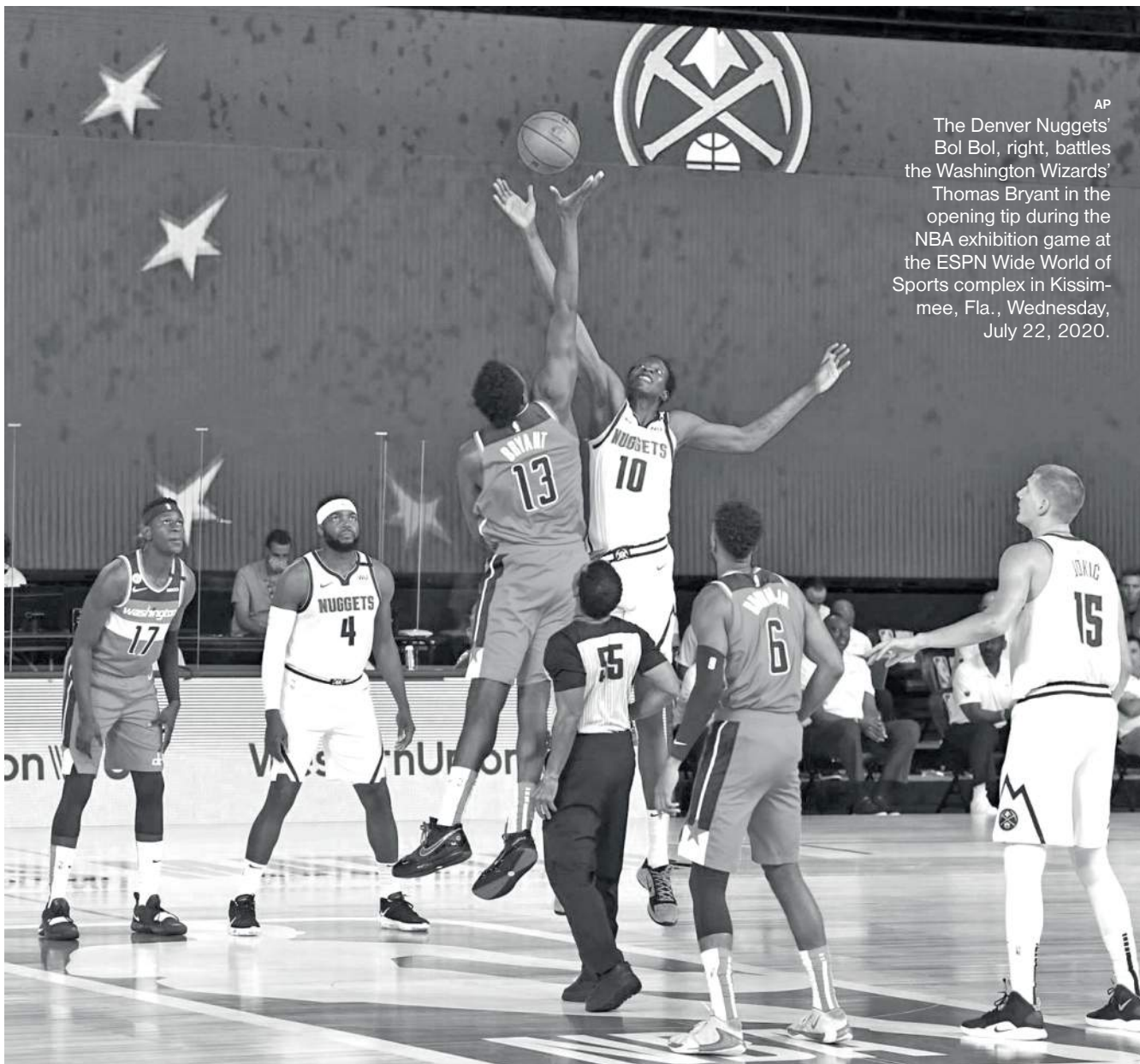
Malone didn't have much of a choice. He held out Will Barton III and Jamal Murray for precautionary reasons. He didn't have Torrey Craig or Gary Harris, who just recently arrived into the bubble. But reinforcements will soon arrive with Michael Porter Jr. on his way to Florida.

"Give our guys a lot of credit," Malone said. "We had a lot of guys step in and play positions that aren't their natural, comfortable positions."

"I'm very impressed," said Troy Daniels of Bol Bol. "He has a lot of potential."

Comforts of home

Michael Baiamonte was not



AP
The Denver Nuggets' Bol Bol, right, battles the Washington Wizards' Thomas Bryant in the opening tip during the NBA exhibition game at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex in Kissimmee, Fla., Wednesday, July 22, 2020.

After lackluster games, Johnson, Koepka seek spark at 3M Open



BLAINE, Minn. (AP)—The presence of Dustin Johnson and Brooks Koepka in Minnesota this week

has given the fledgling 3M Open two heavy-hitting stars of the PGA Tour to headline the second edition of the tournament.

Perhaps their participation will be mutually beneficial. Johnson and Koepka could use a pick-me-up at the TPC Twin Cities on this Arnold Palmer-designed course, seeking a boost for the FedEx Cup standings in this strange, virus-interrupted season.

After winning the Travelers Championship in Connecticut four weekends ago, Johnson failed to make the cut at the Memorial in Ohio last week with the highest 36-hole score (160) of his PGA Tour career. The 36-year-old, who is currently ranked fourth in the world and 25th in the FedEx Cup standings, did not play in the inaugural 3M Open in 2019.

"I actually felt like the game was in good form going into the Memorial last week. I just struggled. It's one of those weeks," Johnson said. "I've still got a lot of confidence in

what I'm doing."

Johnson will tee off with Tommy Fleetwood and Tony Finau on Thursday morning in Blaine, a commuter suburb with a few cornfields among the sports fields and curved-street developments about 20 miles north of Minneapolis. Koepka (No. 6), Fleetwood (No. 12) and Finau (No. 17) are the only entrants currently ranked in the top 25.

The reshuffled PGA Tour schedule didn't help the 3M Open, with most of the top players opting for rest this weekend after the high-profile Memorial. The World Golf Championship in Memphis is next, followed by the PGA Championship in San Francisco. Johnson made the rare decision to play four consecutive weeks.

Koepka made the cut at the Memorial but closed with an 80 on the final round, dropping him to 154th on the FedEx Cup standings. Last year at the 3M Open, he finished 65th. So there are plenty of frustrating feelings for him to brush aside in Blaine, on a water-lined layout that benefits big drivers like the 30-year-old reigning winner of the PGA Championship.

at Walt Disney World on Wednesday. The public address announcer for the Miami Heat wasn't in the building for the team's season-restart scrimmage debut.

His voice was.

The sound of him bellowing one of his signature phrases—"stand up and make some noise"—bounced through the arena Wednesday night during a third-quarter stoppage in play, a bit of a peculiar thing because there were no fans there to actually coax into rising from their chairs.

Welcome to Pandemic Basketball. The NBA rolled out what game operations in a bubble will look like, with the first four of 33 scrimmages being played. The scrimmages—exhibitions, some call them—will continue through July 28, two days before the restart of the regular season in the form of seeding games that will determine who has what seed for the playoffs.

"The games are the games," Los Angeles Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "Once you get in between the lines, you can make a case, that's probably as comfortable as the players will ever be or as normal as everything will ever be. Because once they get between the lines, it's a basketball game."

Rivers and the Clippers were the NBA's first winners

of a game played during a pandemic, after downing Orlando 99-90 in an arena that held about 200 people—players, team staffs and NBA employees included.

Denver beat Washington 89-82, New Orleans eased past Brooklyn 99-68 and in the finale Miami topped Sacramento 104-98.

"I told Doc, I thought it was much more comfortable than I thought it would be," Magic coach Steve Clifford said. "I think that the teams that can adapt to playing in an unique, kind of different environment without all the fans, whoever can get the right mindset and concentrate on just playing will have a big advantage."

There were some new twists.

Ballboys were setting up chairs for teams during timeouts because ones in the bench area must not be moved, and every player had an orange Gatorade cart just for him marked at his assigned seat. And while some players participated in handshakes, some people on the court declined—when Magic guard Michael Carter-Williams offered a fist-bump greeting to referee Jacyn Goble, no reciprocal offer came.

"For me, it's just basketball," New Orleans guard E'Twaun Moore said. "It's kind of easy to play that. It's like playing your whole life,

playing outside, playing in gyms with nobody there, open gym. So it was just fun to go out there and just hoop and have fun."

Part of the setup here calls for the designated home teams, like the Heat were Wednesday, to get comforts of home.

Play analysis

Shooting on Day 1 wasn't as rusty as some might expect.

The four games Wednesday saw teams shoot 43% from the field, 32% from 3-point range and 81% from the foul line.

For the regular season, the NBA was collectively at 46% from the floor, 36% from 3-point range and 77% from the line.

Zion update

Zion Williamson could still make re-opening night of the NBA season.

The Pelicans said Wednesday that Williamson, who left the NBA bubble last week for a family matter, is being tested daily for the coronavirus and continues showing negative results. If that continues, Williamson may have to quarantine for only four days when he returns to the team.

And if that return comes in the next few days, that means he could still have a shot of playing when New Orleans faces Utah on July 30 in the first of the 88 seeding games

at Disney.

"While there is no current timetable for his return to campus, he fully intends to rejoin the team," the Pelicans said in a statement. "Per NBA protocol, his quarantine period will be determined upon his return."

The minimum quarantine Williamson would have to serve for leaving, even though he was officially excused, is the four-day option.

The former Duke star has played in 19 games this season, averaging 23.6 points and 6.8 rebounds.

Westbrook practices

Houston guard Russell Westbrook, whose arrival in Florida was delayed after he tested positive for the coronavirus, arrived on Monday and got on the practice floor with his team for the first time Wednesday.

It's unclear if he will play in Houston's first scrimmage at Disney on Friday. But he had a message to fans about how seriously they should take the coronavirus.

"I'm not a doctor nor a specialist, but I do know that it's definitely something to take very seriously," Westbrook said. "Wearing a mask can be between life or death, honestly. ... People are dying from this virus each and every day, and it's something that we all need to take very, very seriously." (AP/NBC)

Betts gets \$365M, 12-year deal with Dodgers



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Even before

Mookie Betts played his first game in Dodger Blue, the superstar outfielder decided his future is in Los Angeles.

Betts and the Dodgers have struck baseball's first big-money deal since the coronavirus pandemic decimated the sport's economics, with Betts agreeing Wednesday to a \$365 million, 12-year contract through 2032 on the eve of opening day.

The massive agreement removes the top offensive player from next offseason's free-agent class and puts the long-time Boston Red Sox slugger in the middle of LA's lineup for what he thinks will be the rest of his career. The Dodgers only acquired Betts in a trade Feb. 10, but he eagerly bypassed the uncertainties of free agency for a secure future with an organization that already feels like home.

"I just love being here," Betts said in a video conference call from Dodger Stadium, where he will make his Dodgers debut Thursday against San Francisco. "I love everything about here. I'm here to win some rings and bring championships back to LA. That's all I'm focused on."

Betts' new deal is baseball's second-largest in total dollars behind the \$426.5 million, 12-year contract for Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout covering 2019-30. Trout and Betts are arguably the top two outfielders in the game, and now they've both got deals that should keep them playing 32 miles apart for at least the next decade.

"I'm excited for him," said Trout, who texted his congratulations to Betts. "We kind of went through the same situation. I was laughing because of the physical he probably had to take, because mine lasted about 10 hours. Being so close to him



AP
Los Angeles Dodgers right fielder Mookie Betts throws after catching a fly ball during the first inning of an exhibition baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks Monday, July 20, 2020, in Los Angeles.

go-wrong game—it'll mark the most bizarre year in the history of Major League Baseball.

A 60-game season, stars opting out. Ballparks without fans, players wearing masks. Piped-in sound effects, cardboard cutouts for spectators. Spray-painted ads on the mound, pitchers with personal rosin bags.

And a rack of strange rules. DHs in the National League, well, OK. An automatic runner on second to start the 10th inning? C'mon, now.

"Gosh, it's going to be fun," Cole said. "It's going to have fake crowd noise, and going to be 2020 coronavirus baseball."

Plus, a poignant reminder of the world we live in. A Black Lives Matter stencil can be put on mounds throughout the majors during the opening weekend.

And still there's a team that doesn't know where it's going to play -- barred from Toronto because of health concerns, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and the Blue Jays had hoped to roost in Pittsburgh or Baltimore or Buffalo or somewhere else.

"This is 2020 baseball," Scherzer said.

To many fans, that will do. No other choice, really. Four months after the games were supposed to start, strange ball is better than no ball, right?

We'll see.

Opening day brings a tasty doubleheader: a marquee pitching matchup in Washington, followed by the nightcap at Dodger Stadium when star outfielder Mookie Betts, fresh off a \$365 million, 12-year contract, and his new Los Angeles teammates take on the San Francisco Giants.

now, it's pretty cool to have him out here. Southern California is great."

Betts, who turns 28 in October, was acquired along with pitcher David Price for three promising Dodgers prospects in a blockbuster trade that signaled Los Angeles' determination to win the World Series after winning seven straight NL West titles and claiming the NL pennants in 2017 and 2018.

Trout will play

Mike Trout has decided to play for the Los Angeles Angels

in the shortened baseball season, although his year will be paused in a few weeks by the birth of his first child.

The three-time AL MVP confirmed his decision Wednesday before the Angels' final exhibition game against the San Diego Padres at Angel Stadium.

Trout expressed uncertainty earlier this month about the safety of this unique major league season, saying he wouldn't risk his growing family's health to participate. After three weeks of experience with the regulations put in place by

the Angels and Major League Baseball, Trout is cautiously confident in baseball's ability to hold a season safely.

"I'm playing," Trout said in a video conference call. "It's definitely been great so far."

Trout will be in the lineup when the Angels open the season Friday in Oakland, but he won't be joined by Anthony Rendon. The Angels' new \$245 million first baseman will miss opening day and perhaps a few more games with an oblique muscle injury, manager Joe Maddon said

Wednesday night.

Masks, empty parks in opening day

A baseball season that was on the brink before it ever began because of the virus outbreak is set to start Thursday night when excitable Max Scherzer and the World Series champion Washington Nationals host prized ace Gerrit Cole and the New York Yankees.

When it does get underway—the DC forecast calls for thunderstorms, the latest rocky inning in this what-can-

NEW YORK (AP)—The fallout of the coronavirus pandemic could benefit the U.S. soccer team when World Cup qualifying begins in North and Central America and the Caribbean.

"If we go to qualifying in empty stadiums, that's going to change that dynamic considerably, some for the positive and some for the worse," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said Tuesday. "You think about us traditionally going down to Central America and playing very hostile environments and that's completely taken away, that could give us an advantage."

The U.S. qualified for seven straight World Cup before failing to reach the 2018 tournament in Russia due to home losses to Mexico and Costa

Empty stadiums in World Cup qualifying not all bad

Rica followed by a final game defeat before just a few hundred fans in Couva, Trinidad. The CONCACAF hexagonal for the 2022 tournament in Qatar was scheduled to start this September, but that international window was removed and returned to leagues following the disruptions of this spring.

Berhalter thinks the October window may remain for national teams but that qualifying openers may be pushed back to November or March. CONCACAF President Victor Montagliani of Canada said the format may change—Canada was set to just miss reaching the final six.

"Even if qualifying doesn't start in 2020, there's plenty of

time to get a hex done," Berhalter said. "We went through the dates. There's plenty of dates."

Berhalter was hired in late 2018, coached the Americans to 11 wins, five losses and two ties in 2019, then opened 2020 with a 1-0 win over Costa Rica. While American star Christian Pulisic struggled on the field in his first season with Chelsea and got hurt Jan. 1, he's solidified a starting spot since play resumed in mid-June.

"He's picking the ball up in space, in pockets and just being really aggressive, going at defenders, dribbling at defenders," Berhalter said. "You can see the dramatic shift in how his teammates relate to

him now. They actually look to him, whereas times in the beginning you're thinking, wait, why aren't they passing him this ball? Now they get the ball, their first glance is to him. And he's really grown to be an important part of this group, important part of that team, and it's been fun to watch."

Berhalter had said in February he intended to select 17-year-old Gio Reyna for March exhibitions, matches called off. A son of former U.S. captain Claudio Reyna, Gio debuted for Borussia Dortmund on Jan. 18 and scored once in 18 appearances. The midfielder made his first starts during the final two

matches of the season.

"He's one of those players that will keep rising to the challenges, and we need to provide him with that," Berhalter said. "Does that mean him getting an opportunity, an early opportunity to play in difficult games? I think that's going to make him better, make him even rise to a higher level. Dortmund did a great job of integrating him into the group in a calculated way to help him perform at high levels."

Zack Steffen, the top American goalkeeper, had an opposite experience in Germany. He signed with Manchester City from Columbus last summer, was loaned to Fortu-

na Dusseldorf and started the first 17 Bundesliga matches. Then he injured a knee and didn't play again. He is expected to be at Manchester City next season, likely as a backup to Ederson.

"Man City is a super-high level," Berhalter said. "And to gain that experience for a year, to be in that training environment and have the opportunity to potentially break into that team is exciting. And I think it would be worth it, I would say. You always have to weigh if you're going to be sitting on the bench and not playing enough games, but to me that opportunity alone is something special. Not too many players in the world get a chance to play for one club like that."



Dispute over money won't stop NFL season

NEW YORK—As the National Football Association and NFL Players Association continue to haggle over whether and to what extent players will be paid in the event that games are canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic, some are suggesting that, if the league and the union can't reach a deal over money, there will be no football in 2020. That's simply not the case.

The NFL's Collective Bargaining Agreement—ratified by the NFLPA after the pandemic began—already addresses the situation. Because the CBA contains no force majeure clause, the players currently are entitled to full pay in 2020, even if games are canceled. The league's only argument regarding reduced pay comes under the Standard Player Contract, which suggests that the duty to pay base salary does not arise until at least one game has



been played.

In other words, if there are no games, the players get no pay. If, however, there is only one game, the players get full pay.

Through these negotiations, the league is trying to create a force majeure clause on the fly, getting players to agree to be paid only for games

that are played, even though the league has had the ability within the confines of every single CBA negotiation that ever has occurred to ask for a force majeure clause. The league's sole protection in the event of a pandemic comes from the mutual duty to negotiate in good faith as to the impact of lost 2020 revenues on the 2021 salary cap.

Nothing stops the players from agreeing to a force majeure clause in order to reduce the overall 2020 losses that would need to be addressed in the future, but the players



^{AP}
In this undated file photo, Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton tries to avoid being sacked by New England Patriots defensive tackle Adam Butler during the fourth quarter of an NFL game at Gillette Stadium.

land Patriots as usual.

Only this time it will be to see how 2015 NFL MVP Cam Newton fares replacing three-time MVP and six-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady at quarterback.

Newton is far from the only player dealing with big shoes to fill this season as a series of trades, free agent signings and retirements opened up some massive holes at jobs that had been filled by stars for years.

Not surprisingly some of the biggest focus is at quarterback with Teddy Bridgewater tasked with replacing Newton in Carolina after the No. 1 pick in 2011 had a nine-year run as starter for the Panthers.

Philip Rivers started 224 consecutive regular-season games for the Chargers before leaving to sign with Indianapolis as a free agent. The Chargers now will turn to veteran Tyrod Taylor or first-round rookie Justin Herbert to take over for the reliable Rivers.

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the 2023 Pacific Games," Sogavare added.

The Solomon Islands' top official is also pleased that compared to previous Pacific Games, the hosts are ahead in their preparations with still three years out from the Games at this point in time.

However, Sogavare said the island-nation should not be complacent.

"I do realize and accept that the biggest challenge is my government's ability to live up to its financial commitment to fund the Games," he said.

Sogavare assured everyone that the Solomon Islands government is committed to secure and allocate the funds

don't have to agree to one. And if the two sides don't strike a deal as to player pay in 2020, the current CBA will control. Most importantly, the absence of a deal on money won't allow the owners to lock

agreed to in a timely manner to ensure the NHA can deliver the Games.

The Prime Minister also thanked those who joined the government in this undertaking, including the governments of China, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, New Zealand, Japan, and the United Kingdom. *(Saipan Tribune)*

ITIBUS

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actually overwhelmed during my promotion. A blue belt in BJJ is just the beginning of the journey but still a huge honor and responsibility that I look forward to," she added.

With her new rankings, Itibus welcomes working with fellow BJJ practitioners—both men and women—especially those who visit Trench Tech gym and roll with them on the mat.

"I look forward to doing my best to represent my gym and professor Cuki Alvarez. Promotions are not given lightly, so people who do BJJ have an idea of the skills behind a color," the Trench Tech member said.

Itibus is also up to the challenge on the current set-up in their training sessions as Trench Tech follows safety measures against the spread of COVID-19. She said that right now, they don't hold regular BJJ classes and work heavily on sparring.

"I think, one obstacle to moving forward with our training during these times would be the lack of actual BJJ classes. Right now, we are solely rolling, so you learn as you go and pull whatever knowledge or techniques



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lo Itibus, center, is seen here posing for a photo with her competitors after topping the white belt division of last year's Art of War 14 Grappling Submission Challenge at the Trench Tech Gym.

you've learned before (the pandemic)," Itibus said.

During Trench Tech's regular BJJ classes, Itibus and company spent at least an hour working on techniques that they then practiced twice a week. After each class, they also had sparring and applied what they have learned from the earlier drills.

Despite the restrictions, Itibus is thankful to Trench Tech for finding ways for its members to safely return to training.

"I'm really happy that we began to spar regularly again because that really is where you get to sharpen your techniques and actively improve. Trench Tech has been awesome at providing the necessary means to keep us safe and still train. However, I can't wait for the day Trench Tech BJJ classes start again. We have much to learn and I'm looking forward to drilling and learning with the rest of our team," she said.

out the players.

That said, there's a chance (in theory) that the league would be more inclined to pull the plug on the entire season, if faced with the possibility of owing the players full pay even if only one game is played, but no pay if no games are played. As one league source remarked yesterday, some teams would likely prefer to scrap the season than to risk owing the full amount of the 2020 player payroll even if only a

handful of 2020 games ultimately are played.

Regardless, the league can't take the position that there will be no football in 2020 if the players don't agree to modify the CBA when it comes to the issue of player compensation. As the NFL would say (and has said) when it comes to aspects of the CBA that the players don't like, it's a collectively-bargained issue.

Meanwhile, when the season starts, plenty of eyes will be focused on the New Eng-

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the following sponsors of next month's competition: Triple J Saipan, IT&E Saipan, Island Training Solutions, Marianas Pacific Distributors, Inc., Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., Assurance Brokers, Inc., Hive Analytics, Kautz Glass Company, D&Q Saipan, Herman's Modern Bakery, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Latte Built & Fitness, McDonald's of Saipan, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., Power 99- Sorensen Media Group, Roil Soil Cloth-

ing, Saipan Snaps, StayWell Saipan, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Terry's Snack Bar, and The Shack Saipan.

The Chamber is also actively seeking sponsors of in-kind donations and raffle items. Proceeds from the event will be used to support the Saipan Chamber Scholarship Program. Sponsorship deadline is on July 30.

Registration forms for players are available for download at www.saipanchamber.com/our-events, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort (front desk) and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's office at the Mari-

anas Business Plaza, 3rd Floor, Suite 315. The Chamber encourages golfers to submit their forms and fees before Aug. 3 at the Chamber Office, where registrants can easily pay for registration, raffle tickets, and optional play contests before the tournament to ease their check-in and help practice social distancing measures.

For more information about the golf tournament or the Chamber, visit its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/saipanchamber or contact Franco Santos at 234-7150 or coordinator@saipanchamber.com (Saipan Chamber of Commerce)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Laolao Bay Golf & Resort will host the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on Aug. 8.



Bol Bol in bubble as pandemic games begin

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Itibus on to next BJJ journey

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After her promotion from white to blue belt, Trench Tech Gym's Lo Itibus is set for the challenges ahead, as she continues her journey in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

20 team slots left for Chamber golf tourney



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho watches his shot during a local tournament last year at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, which will host next month's Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament.

Registrations are rushing in as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament approaches.

Only 20 slots are left for the tournament that has a two-man scramble format and will take place on Aug. 8 on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. The registration fee is \$120/per person (\$140 after Aug. 3). Chamber members and their scramble partners will enjoy a discounted rate of \$110/member (\$120 after Aug. 3).

Men and women of different skill levels will have a chance at amazing cash prizes: \$800 for first, \$650 for

second, and \$500 for third places in each of the two categories—Team Gross and Team Double Peoria. There will be additional optional play contests for closest to the pin (four holes) and aggressive drive (one) with winners taking home \$150 cash prizes each. Triple J Motors is also offering a brand new 2019 Mazda MX-5 Club Sport Convertible as hole-in-one prize (on No. 13) plus raffle prizes will be given away at the tournament.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce would like to extend its appreciation to

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Itibus, Pali Rovnan, and Ray Santos got their BJJ promotion last Tuesday at the Trench Tech Gym in Garapan, a recognition that the former did not expect, especially with the limited training time they have because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"My drive to train used to be to get promoted, but after my competition in Japan, my goals changed. The talent out there and the rest of the world, even in just the white belt division, opened my eyes and I forgot about chasing the belt and just wanted to focus on being a better grappler," said Itibus, who debuted in the Asian International BJJ Federation Jiu-Jitsu Championships in Tokyo last year.

"I was really shocked and

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lo Itibus, center, receives her Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu blue belt from Trench Tech and BJJ master Cuki Alvarez, right, and BJJ black belt Clinton Dela Cruz during a promotion ceremony last Tuesday at the Trench Tech Gym.



2023 Pacific Games office opens

Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare has officially opened the 2023 Pacific Games office in Honiara yesterday.

Sogavare said the office will

be the home of the National Hosting Authority and its partners—the Games Organizing Committee, the Facilities Committee, the Na-



tional Sports Council, and the Cabinet Subcommittee for the 2023 Pacific Games. He added that bringing them together in one roof

embodied the theme "Many Partners and one Team" for the Solomon Islands.

"Together, they will not rest over the next 1,089 days to ensure all preparations are completed prior to the Games. Most importantly, they will ensure our country will deliver the best Pacific Games ever and, also ensure that we achieve the best-ever performance from our athletes to reach the highest-ever medals tally for our country," the prime minister said.

"I take this opportunity to thank the chairman and the members of the NHA Board and his secretariat team for the excellent work the NHA, together with its partners, the Pacific Games Council, the National Olympic Committee of Solomon Islands, and National Sports Council of Solomon Islands, have undertaken to take us to where we currently are today—1,089 days from

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Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, left, leads the opening of the 2023 Pacific Games office in Honiara yesterday.

NATIONAL HOSTING AUTHORITY